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AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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Lady Brownies

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION

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Bittersweet departures

Retired teachers chart new paths after 37 years in the classroom

By Mike Lydick

Turley Publications Correspondent

When school begins in Agawam next week, Sheryl Mardeusz, Scott Thomson, and Jackie Toussaint won't be in their classrooms to greet students.

They are among 16 teachers, one principal, and three paraprofessionals who recently retired, but Mardeusz, Thomson, and Toussaint have taught the longest in Agawam: 37 years. While retiring means starting new chapters in their lives, the new school year will also be an emotional experience.

"I'll feel sad when September rolls around," said Mardeusz, 60. "I'll miss the interaction between my students and my colleagues."

The Agawam resident began her career in 1974 as a teacher's aide at the James Clark School. A year later, at age 22, she became a first-grade teacher at the school. From 1991 until retiring in June she was a third-grade teacher at the Benjamin J. Phelps School.

Mardeusz said she could have retired sooner, but wanted to wait until she qualified for her full pension. "I enjoyed my summer and taught water exercise classes a few hours a week. In the future, I would like to try substitute teaching."

Thomson, 59, started his career teaching music at Agawam Junior High School in 1975 when he was 22. He initially taught general music and chorus, then added a guitar program as well as taking on directing the AJHS and Agawam Middle School bands. A decade later, Thomson transferred to AHS to teach music courses and direct its band. In 1995, he returned to AJHS and was there until retiring in June.

Retired, but still teaching

"I wanted to go out with a strong program and not wait

Please see DEPARTURES, page 12

BOARDING THE BUS



Turley Publications photo by Connie J. Casagrande

Nicholas Fontaine, 5, is ready for his journey to school. See more back to school photos on page 16.

Firefighter to tempt 'death'

Pollock to participate in 2013 Spartan Death Race

By Jennifer Wroblewski

Staff Writer

AGAWAM — John Pollock knows a little something about doing things that people normally wouldn't do. As a member of Agawam Fire Department, the 33-year-old Chicopee resident has made a career out of it: entering burning buildings while others are running out. But Pollock takes the idea to the extreme by pushing himself to the limit with events like the March 31 "Goruck Challenge" in New York City, the May 5 "Tough Mudder" in Vermont, and the Aug. 11 "Spartan Sprint Hurricane Heat" in Amesbury; physical competitions that test a person's endurance and, some say, sanity.

Now, Pollock is preparing for the "Spartan Death Race" in Pittsfield, Vt., an annual competition that is so physically and mentally challenging, its organizers expect the majority of participants to fail. In fact, participants are asked to sign a waiver that states, simply, "You may die." The event will be held next June.

According to the Spartan Death Race website, with the oh-so-appropriate domain, www.youmaydie.com, the event has been held annually since 2005 and only an average of 15 percent of competitors finish the various challenges before them.

During the death race, competitors may be asked to chop wood for two hours, carry a 20-pound stump around for hours, lift 10-30 pounds of rock for five hours, build a fire, cut a bushel of onions, crawl through mud under barbed wire, or after 20-hours of racing, memorize the names of the first 10 U.S. presidents or a Bible verse, hike to the top of a mountain, and recite them back in order, according to the website.

"It's the stupidest thing I've seen in my life, the race. Their goal is to make everybody quit," Pollock said. "The race owners who designed this thing, they don't want anyone to finish. It drives the human spirit."

This year, Pollock volunteered for the Spartan Death Race event in June, which gave him an idea of what to expect in the future. He went into the event thinking he'd never participate, but he left wanting to try. "Everything I learned about it this year is going to be different next year," he said.

Those who actually finish the race really aren't awarded much in the way of prizes, either.

"You get a little medal, that's the physical thing you get," Pollock said. "You also get blisters and completely worn out feet. You get weeks of cramps. But you also get your limits tested. You get to know who you are and what you can do."

Pollock, who turned to fitness two years ago, enjoys pushing his limits beyond what he thinks he is capable of doing.

In May 2011, he took part in the Tough Mudder, billed as a hardcore 10- to 12-mile obstacle course designed by British Special Forces to test strength, stamina, mental grit and camaraderie.

"I never thought I'd be able to finish that," he said. This May, he completed the Tough Mudder again, this time while wearing a backpack full of bricks.

Please see FIREFIGHTER, page 6

A note from our publisher

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to provide this second and final complimentary issue of *Agawam Advertiser News*. We hope you enjoy it.

We have enclosed a remittance envelope with today's paper, which may be used to beat the increase and subscribe now or extend your current subscription at today's low rate. We encourage you to subscribe today and save.

Thanks for taking time to consider the service and product we provide. As always, we welcome your feedback. Please allow a couple of weeks for processing your new subscription. We look forward to serving you!

Sincerely,
Patrick Turley
Publisher

YMCA expresses desire to come to Agawam

By Sarah Platanitis

Turley Publications Correspondent

Plans are under development for a Y Express to open in the former Foodmart space on Springfield Street in Agawam. The wellness and program center will also benefit the neighboring town of West Springfield.

"The Y already plays a role in our community with swimming and helps with day camps so it's a natural fit," said Agawam Mayor Richard A. Cohen. "There's a concept plan and design in place, the location is very central between the two cities and now we're looking at trying to raise money in order to make this happen."

The YMCA is looking for volunteers interested in helping to grow their community to collectively fundraise the \$500,000 in order to get the project off the ground.

"No YMCA is successful without involvement from the community. It just doesn't work that way," said Kirk

Smith, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield. "We want to invite business leaders, government officials, public servants and members of the community to talk about what we're working on. At the end of the day, what we want the group to understand is how they can get involved and how the Y will have a positive impact on this community."

Debbie Dachos, director of Planning and Community Development for Agawam, hopes to expand the 23-member board currently serving as the main conduit for public input.

"We have had a couple of cottage parties to educate the community as to what the Y's function is and what they will be doing. Anybody interested in attending who would like an invitation should call the mayor or planning offices and we'll make sure they're on the list," said Dachos.

A traditional YMCA has a basketball gymnasium, swimming pool, fitness,

Please see YMCA, page 9



LOTS OF
LOCKS
FOR LOVE



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Feeding Hills resident Angela Majka recently sent us this photo of her daughter, Erica Majka, 7, who donated 10 inches of hair to "Locks of Love." Do you have your own photo to share? Send it to jwroblewski@turley.com.

Early deadline due to Labor Day

AGAWAM — Due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 3, there will be an early deadline for all editorial copy submitted to *Agawam Advertiser News* for the Sept. 6 edition.

All items to appear Sept. 6 should be submitted no later than noon on Thursday, Aug. 30.

For more information or to submit editorial copy, email aan@turley.com or call 786-7747.

WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.

Turley Publications photo by Connie J. Casagrande

Here is a landmark that has appeared in this newspaper many times over the last six months. Tell us – do you know where it is?



Last week's photo: That ear of corn could be found at E. Cecchi Farm on Springfield Street. Correctly guessing were Rick Parrott of Agawam, Sue Meunier and Olga Kravchenko of Feeding Hills, and Fran Leclerc.

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Resurfacing project underway

Rubber replaces wood chips on playgrounds

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

AGAWAM — Four years after the Benjamin J. Phelps and School Street Park playgrounds were resurfaced with rubber, the remaining playscapes in town have been addressed.

According to Parks and Recreation Director Christopher Sparks, who worked in conjunction with School Superintendent William Sappelli and Mayor Richard A. Cohen to secure funding for the resurfacing, the playgrounds at Robinson Park, Clark and Granger elementary schools will be completed by the time school starts on Thursday, Sept. 6.

The rubber surfacing is a better long-term, maintenance-free option that is safer than the wood chips previously used, although the wood chips were compliant with regulations and considered acceptable, said Sparks.

While expensive — the cost for all three schools totaled \$257,000, funded through a self-sustaining account from the before and after-school program, said Cohen — the rubber surfacing will be more cost effective in the long run.

It cost the town roughly \$3,000 per year to maintain the wood chips previously in place, said Sparks. Officials had been maintaining the



Surface America employee Jake Aures empties a wheelbarrow filled with a rubberized material on a playscape area at the James Clark School last week. The company resurfaced playscapes at several schools this summer.

wood chip surfaces — replenishing each playground every year — since they were installed in 1999.

“The rubber surfacing should last 25 years or more,” said Sparks, who added that after four years, the



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

Buffalo, N.Y.-based Surface America workers screed and trowel a rubberized top base over a base made of shredded tires on a playscape area at the James Clark School last week.

parks at both Phelps and School Street Park are in “great condition.

“There are no flaws or wear and tear,” he said. That, alone, justified the expense of doing the other schools’ parks, said Sparks.

The month-long process of resurfacing the playgrounds involved removing all existing wood chips, installing a compacted gravel base, and a base coat of shredded tires with a top coat of rubber, said Sparks. Surface America, a Buffalo, N.Y.-based company, was contracted to perform the work.

Cohen credited school committee member Wendy Rua for help-

ing to move the town forward on the resurfacing project.

“It’s been a good collaborative effort between the town and the schools to provide a safer environment for our kids,” Sparks added. “I wish we could have done them sooner, but we’re glad to get all three done at the same time instead of one a year for three years, which was one of our original plans.”

The resurfacing project — which has been in the planning stages since January — will be completed prior to the start of school, said Sparks.

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Opinion

Time to move forward with blighted property

We hope the Agawam City Council will respond favorably to a resolution for grant funding sponsored by Mayor Richard A. Cohen that will come up for a vote at the council's Tuesday, Sept. 4 meeting.

Cohen is looking for authorization from the council to apply for \$50,000 in grant money from the state to conduct a brownfields assessment at the former Games and Lanes property on Walnut Street in Agawam and we can't help but think it's about time the town moves forward with that site. The funds are available through MassDevelopment for the environmental assessment of brownfields.

The Games and Lanes building is, according to the resolution, "abandoned, blighted, and has been the subject of extensive hazardous waste cleanup for over 10 years." Efforts to redevelop the site cannot proceed until a full assessment of the extent of contamination and the cost to remediate the site have been established.

Given that the town of Agawam has made a concerted effort to locate a developer interested in the property – and the hesitancy of the private sector to take on such a project – we agree with Planning and Community Development Director Deborah Dachos that town officials should take advantage of the available funding – now. Once the assessment is completed and the approximate cost of remediation is determined, the town will be in a better position to market the property and move forward with the revitalization of the Walnut Street Shopping Center.

The property was occupied by Standard Uniform Corp., a uniform rental business, from 1969 through the late 1980s, Dachos said. According to the proposal, since 1989, it has been the subject of numerous remediation activities including soil removal and groundwater pump-and-treat soil vapor extraction to address high levels of chlorinated solvents found on the site.

We encourage anyone interested in seeing this site finally cleaned up to attend the city council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Roberta G. Doering School or to call the office of the city council at 786-0400, ext. 8716. The sooner the town moves forward with assessing the property, the sooner it can be sold, allowing more, sustainable businesses to come here.



Letter to the Editor

Agawam Lions looking for Big E volunteers

To the editor:

The Big E is just around the corner (Sept. 14-30) and the Agawam Lions need your help. For over 45 years, the Agawam Lions have been serving BBQ chicken at the Big. Profits from the 17 days of the fair are where we get the "lion's share" of the funds we distribute throughout our community each year in the form of a wide variety of projects.

Thanks to the work of many volunteers, we have become one of the largest contributors of Lions clubs to the Mass. Eye Research for blindness. But it does not end there. We give out \$9,000 in scholarships to Agawam High School students each year, support many other

organizations such as the Agawam Police Department D.A.R.E. program, Agawam Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the Agawam Public Library (large-print books), the Agawam Senior Center, the summer concert series in Agawam center, Parish Cupboard, special needs requests (glasses, hearing aids), the Lions Eye Mobile for Western Mass., eye and ear testing equipment in all schools, as well as running special benefits when the need arises.

Our community service list is a very large one each year. It would not be possible without the help of community volunteers. Each day of the 17-day Big E fair, we need at least 40 volunteers working one of two five-hour shifts. The morning shift runs from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the afternoon shift runs from 3:30 to 8 p.m. Areas that we need help in include the BBQ pit, dining room

service line and the kitchen.

We will provide you with a ticket to the Big E and also for those who are interested, transportation to and from the fair. You will only have to walk about 100 steps to our facility. We will provide you with a meal, and as many work breaks you feel are necessary. Besides the feeling of knowing you are helping a good cause, there is also a great feeling of camaraderie. Whatever assistance you can provide us is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact me at (413) 297-7387 or email Sienkinc@msn.com. Please enter "Big E Volunteer" in the subject line.

Charles Sienkiewicz
Agawam Lions Club

Session concludes with accomplishments

The 187th Session of the General Court concluded with a number of accomplishments that will address problems we face every day. At the beginning of the legislative session, a commitment was made to balance the budget and do it without raising taxes. I was pleased to support two balanced budgets that did not raise taxes or implement fees on the hard-working citizens of the Commonwealth. By working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, our efforts brought record amounts of funding for our schools, veterans, roads, bridges and economic development projects across Massachusetts.

The examples below are just few of the accomplishments throughout the session:

Jobs: I have focused my efforts on making it easier for business owners to create jobs and get people back to work. I hosted a jobs forum in Agawam, toured local businesses and personally contacted each and every business in Agawam. As a result, I co-sponsored a legislative Jobs package, which saw many provisions become law. These initiatives will protect small business owners from soaring health care costs, revitalize our manufacturing industry

and make it easier and more affordable to do business in the Commonwealth.

Education: Improving education and increasing funding for our schools have been among my top priorities. I'm pleased to report that Agawam received increased educational funding totaling \$1,931,471 over the two-year session. Agawam also received increased local aid, which made it possible to avoid parking and athletic fees for students at Agawam High School. I worked with the Massachusetts School Building Authority and Agawam's school superintendent's office to bring greater financial support to school projects in Agawam. I successfully advocated for the passage of a bi-partisan amendment to in-

crease funding for Advanced Placement math and science programs. The amendment increased statewide funding from \$1,000,000 to \$1,750,000 and will ensure Agawam High School will be proportionately funded in the upcoming year.

Veterans: I was honored to support a number of veterans initiatives. The Valor Act has made it easier for veterans to secure employment, housing and educational opportunities. The Welcome Home Bonus Account provides up to \$1,000 in bonus payments for residents returning from active deployment. These initiatives will help to ensure benefits for the 28,000 Massachusetts service-members currently deployed. The Agawam Veterans Cemetery received an increase in

funding of almost \$400,000. Being one of only two such Veterans cemeteries in Massachusetts, increased funding for the cemetery is essential.

Seniors: Supporting seniors during a struggling economy is crucial. This year \$21 million for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program was appropriated to help seniors. During the cold winter months, this funding will allow low-income seniors, working families and many other people to heat their homes. Additionally, \$35 million was allocated for Senior Care Adult Day Health programs for low-income seniors and the disabled. Adult day health centers provide care for seniors during the day when family members or other caregivers are not available. Finally, the ban on prescription drug coupons was lifted. Prescription drug coupons will make life-altering drugs more affordable for patients whose conditions can't be treated with less expensive generic or over-the-counter medications.

Eliminating Government Waste: I am dedicated to reforming the welfare system and eliminating millions of dollars in annual fraud and theft.

Please see STATEHOUSE, page 5

FROM THE STATEHOUSE



NICHOLAS BOLDYGA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.



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Statehouse

from page 4

I voted to prohibit the purchase of non-essential items such as alcohol, tobacco, guns, lottery tickets and tattoos with welfare benefits (EBT cards). I also supported pension reforms that will make significant changes to the current pension system, saving the Commonwealth \$6.4 Billion over the next 30 years. Due to pension system reform and increasing the "rainy day" fund, Massachusetts was one of a few states in the nation able to increase its bond rating. After hearing from a number of Agawam residents that have to be drug-free and pass drug tests at their place of work, they thought it was only fair that drug testing be necessary to receive any taxpayer-funded benefits. As a result, I put forward legislation to start the conversation around drug testing for welfare benefits.

There have been a number of successes throughout the session, but there's much to be done. I will continue to make sure our community remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Thank you for allowing me to proudly serve as your representative. Please call me with any concerns. My home telephone number is (413) 569-5188. I'm always available.

Nicholas A. Boldyga is completing his first term as State Representative, serving Agawam, Granville, Russell and Southwick. He is the Ranking Republican on the House Financial Services Committee and is a resident of Southwick.

The '77s 35th class reunion

The class of '77 had its 35th reunion Aug. 18 at Shaker Farms Country Club. Steve Smith came from Colorado and Cindy Berger and Cindy Safford came from Florida. Certainly an unforgettable highlight of the evening was an imitation of a Hawaiian hula dancer by Matt Paleologopoulos. His bikini top covered the right areas to stay within the law.

Back at AHS, Matt was president of the National Honor Society. In other words, the smartest '77s wanted Matt to be their president.

Over the years, AHS had quite a few from the Paleologopoulos family as Matt had four brothers and three sisters. His sister Eileen came also with her husband Tim Chapman, another '77. Tim is the owner of Starlite Auto Body in Westfield.

Matt and Eileen's dad, Tom, is a former town councilor that you may see walking in good weather. You trivia buffs probably noticed that Paleologopoulos beat Saltalamachia (Red Sox catcher) by one letter.

Classmate John Balboni is an electrical engineer at ITT Exelis. He still plays the keyboard and organ and works at ITT Exelis with Dave Burque, son of former AHS math teacher Leo Burque. John's dad, Walter Balboni, served on the school committee for 24 years and the town council for two terms.

Mary Ellen (Montagna) Fydenkevez came with her husband Ted, also a former Brownie. They live in town with their daughter and will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary Aug. 29.

Steve Gaynor lives in Springfield, has two sons and works for Commercial Distributing. Diane Bewes came from Oxford and recently became a grandmother when her granddaugh-

ter Lexie was born.

My former neighbor, Cheryl Davis, came down from Deerfield. We talked about the \$400,000 houses being built on the land her family used to own on School Street.

Greg Klaus came up from Middletown, Conn. He is the adult trauma coordinator at Yale/New Haven Hospital. He has two children and works with former Brownie Irene Lens.

Robert Lovell came up from East Haddam, Conn. He works in fabrication and engineering at a manufacturing plant and has an eight year-old son. Back in the '70s, the Lovell kids used to bring us our paper on Cooper Street.

Robert's sister, Jackie, is now Jackie O'Sullivan and lives in town. Her husband, Dan, was presented the Jeff McCarl award at last fall's soccer banquet.

Ann Marie Favreau is director of quality assurance at a small manufacturing plant. She hasn't gone far, having bought her parents' home.

Mary Jean Fuller has retired after a career as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines.

John Tinnemeyer is a data analyst for Cigna. He and his Chicopee-native wife have a son and daughter.

Other '77s I talked to briefly were Charlie Reutt, Jim Planzo, Bob Johnson, John Brown and Glen Garfield. A special thanks to Glen for making me feel very welcome.

To my former students who crossed their fingers and said I hadn't changed that much, I have this to say: Nice try on the Brownie points but I cannot change your grade. To my truthful former students who cold-heartedly admitted they had no clue who I was, I have this to say: I'd change your grade if I could!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.

YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

WALT WILLARD
ADVERTISER NEWS COLUMNIST



Matt Paleologopoulos



Ann Marie Favreau

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Taking God’s word to Kenya

Bethany mission group set to head out next month

By Sarah Platanitis
Turley Publications Correspondent

Next month, for nearly 10 days, Pastor Tim Reed of Bethany Assembly of God will head a mission group from Agawam to Likuyani, in the Western part of Kenya.

The mission will take place from from Sept. 13 to 24.

The team from Bethany Assembly of God will first travel to Nairobi near Lake Victoria and connect with Missionaries David and Damaris Thompson in Kisumu.

“David oversees a Bible school there and is connected with a woman who has an orphanage,” said Reed, executive pastor at the church. “We will spend a day there to do medical for the orphanage and check out the school and see if our construction guys can help, but primary work is to minister, build a tabernacle and do medical out in the bush.”

Reed previously led a team to Kehancha, in sub-Saharan Kenya, in 2008. There, they built a metal-framed and roofed tabernacle/ community building and ran medical clinics in two towns, seeing over 1,000 people in four days.

“We had a doctor and several nurses that saw people at a pretty good clip and saw a lot of children with pneumonia,” said Reed. “I remember the doctor telling me how a mother brought a baby who could barely breathe. At home, it would be in NICU, but he gave medicine and hoped for the best. We got word a few months later that the baby survived.”

Reed clicked through pictures on his computer as he spoke animatedly about the beautiful country with its rolling hills, rutted dirt roads where vehicles get hopelessly stuck after rainstorms, and the huts and shacks on plots of land that would be exorbitantly priced if they were anywhere else.

“It just blew my mind how beautiful the landscape was,” he said. “Then you look

around and you see poverty. You see people getting water for drinking and cooking in 3-gallon jugs on the side of the road but it’s rain run-off and brown. You just look at it and wonder how do they live like this? It boggles the mind.”

The Bethany mission group to Kenya consists of a combination of skills and heart. Doctors, nurses, contractors, and engineers make up part of the team while others interested in going on a missions trip round out the group.

“We open it up to the entire congregation. Anyone that can fundraise can come. The process also has lots of paperwork and shots,” said Reed.

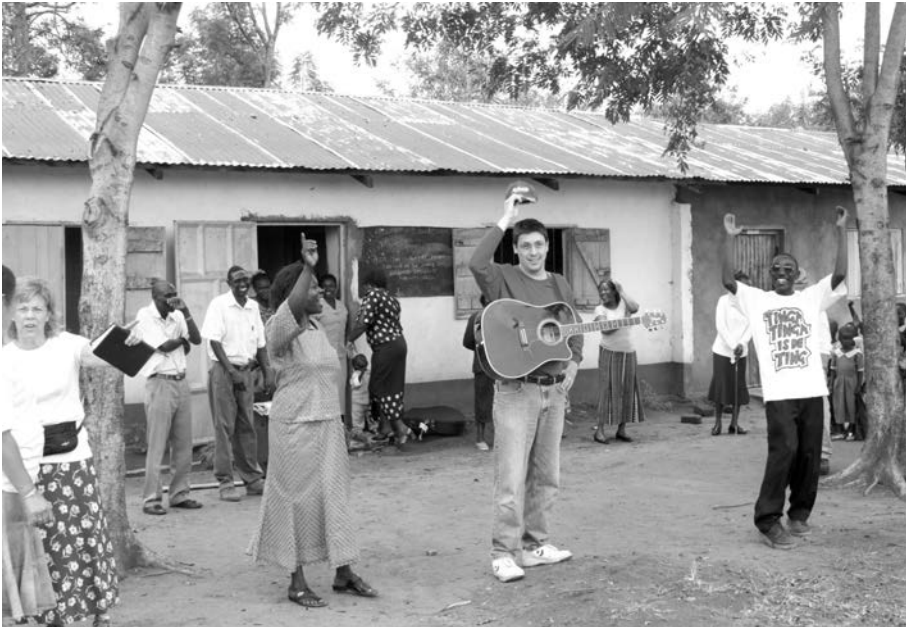
Bethany Assembly of God has a long history with missions in its over 100 years of service. This past April, Pastor Ken Bryars led a group to the Dominican Republic to help with the annual build of a school for Latin America Child Care. Youth mission trips called Ambassadors In Missions (AIM), have gone to El Salvador and Alaska.

While some people might not be able or feel called to go on a humanitarian mission, everyone gives. The Bethany crafts ministry works all year so that proceeds from their big November holiday sales go to missions.

At the church’s Fall Missions Convention in October, the congregation makes faith promises in support of missions beyond their yearly tithe. The grand total pledged last year was a staggering \$340,000.

“We give above and beyond that but it doesn’t include people going on the actual mission trips,” said Reed. “If you tally all the numbers, it could almost be close to half a million when everything is totaled in. A good portion of our budget is just given away and it’s all in support of the people who have given their life to go overseas or work in the states in full-time missionary work.”

This year’s Fall Missions Convention will welcome missionaries from Pacific Oceania, El Salvador, Urban Boston, Philippines, and Africa to talk each week to the congregation. Bethany Assembly will hold its Missions Banquet on Friday, Oct. 19 from 6 to 7 p.m. The event will be open to the public with international foods and activities surrounding the heartfelt work being done to help others overseas.



Turley Publications submitted photo

Bethany Assembly of God executive Pastor Tim Reed (center) raises his hat to say hello to school children while ministering in Kehancha, Kenya.

Before Reed’s group even starts work next month, they will have travelled for three days, he said. Their flight leaves on a Thursday afternoon and they will arrive in Nairobi on Friday night. They will drive all day Saturday so that they can begin work on Sunday.

“We’ll only have 4-5 days that we actually work. It’s intense, hard work and you’re moving and expending before having a couple days’ rest and a Safari at the end of the trip,” he said. “It’s labor-intensive but I think the best part is that Bethany does have that passion.”

Reed, a pastor at Bethany Assembly since October 2001, went on to say how so many churches today have such an inward focus

that they don’t make a difference in their community and become an empty shell of a building.

“Whether it’s helping to build a school or maybe drill a well or offer some medical care for someone who couldn’t afford it, we go there to say that we’re following what the Lord told us to do,” he said. “Jesus said, ‘Go and love your neighbor as yourself.’ Our neighbor is the guy living next to us and the guy across the ocean who may be helped by our presence there.”

To learn more about Pastor Tim Reed’s group, the humanitarian mission work supported by Bethany Assembly of God or the Fall Missions Convention, visit /www.bethany-ag.org/www.bethany-ag.org.

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Mayor announces town’s participation in ‘Let’s Move’

AGAWAM - Mayor Richard A. Cohen announced last week that the town will join First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign. In an effort to inspire community residents to become more physically active, Cohen will participate in a community walk at the River Walk, which is 1.7 miles long.

The event will kick-off Saturday, Oct. 13 at 10 a.m. beginning at the barn at School Street Park (for parking purposes) and will continue to the bike path. It will be held for the following two Saturdays, same location and time, with a guest walker each Saturday. The first 60 participants will receive a free pedometer donated by BCBS of Massachusetts. Healthy refreshments will be provided at the end of

the walk near the barn.

The mayor has assembled an advisory team and heading that team is Shelby Hall-Gibbons, a resident of Feeding Hills, who holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from American International College and M.Ed from Springfield College. She has over 30 years of counseling and program development experience.

More information on this program will be posted in early fall at www.agawam.ma.us. To volunteer your time to help the community, contact the mayor’s office at 786-4520 or email rbudreau@agawam.ma.us or nporfilio@agawam.ma.us.

Health dept. warns of West Nile, EEE

AGAWAM - The health department would like to remind residents of the recent human cases related to West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Berkshire County has one case of West Nile Virus in a woman in her 70s. Other cases of WNV and EEE have been seen in the eastern areas of Massachusetts.

It is imperative that the public protect themselves from mosquito exposure during the hours of dusk to dawn when mosquito activity is at its highest. If you must be outside please use caution.

Preventative measures:

- Apply an insect repellent. Using a product with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluidide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535. All products should be used as directed on the package label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus

- should not be used on children under three years of age.
- Clothing to prevent mosquito bites. Wearing long-sleeve tops, long pants and socks when outdoors will prevent skin exposure and help prevent mosquito bites.
- Drain all areas of standing water. Emptying areas of standing water, such as bird-baths, flowerpots, old tires, buckets and wading pools, this will prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Check rain gutters and drains that may be clogged and harbor mosquitoes also.
- Make sure all windows and doors have screens. Repair or replace missing or torn screens to insure mosquitoes remain outside.
- Protect your pets. Animals that remain outside should be using veterinarian approved mosquito repellents or vaccinated to prevent WNV and/or EEE. Horses should be sheltered inside indoor stables whenever possible.



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‘LITTLE CLOVER’



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Agawam Colleen Allison McCluskey, right, and court members Kara Franqueza and Sarah Murphy, paint a driveway shamrock for the Agawam St. Patrick’s Committee’s fundraising project. The committee is now taking orders and painting while the weather is just right. To have a shamrock painted on your driveway in time for March 17 at a cost of \$25, call Joe Fitzpatrick at (413) 789-1608.

Red Cross schedules blood drives in September

The American Red Cross will hold several community blood drives in September. All eligible and new blood donors are encouraged to give blood. Blood donors are needed every day to ensure an adequate blood supply for patients in need.

Blood drives will be held Sunday, Sept. 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Stop & Shop, 1282 Springfield St., Feeding Hills; Wednesday, Sept. 26 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Agawam Fire Department, 800 Main St.; Friday, Sept. 28 from noon to 6 p.m. at Six Flags New England Human Resources Center, 1756 Main St., Agawam.

In September, all presenting donors will receive a collectable Red Sox T-shirt and a \$19.99 Extra Mile Service Package Oil and Filter Change, free four-tire rotation, free wiper blades, free tire pressure check and \$60 off a set of four tires.

To make an appointment, call (800) 733-2767 or go to recrossblood.org.

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YMCA expresses desire to come to Agawam

YMCA, from page 1

youth and teen areas, group exercise and meeting rooms.

A Y Express is more compact with special modifications that will include a tech center and social area/café. Without the gymnasium and pool, overhead is kept low and helps further the long-term sustainability of the facility.

"The Y Express business model has a revenue-generating aspect to it but we do still depend on fundraising efforts like campaigns and grants," said Smith. "There's affordable membership for every person, no matter their economic situation, and we keep expenses down and staff with a couple full time staff, some part time and volunteers."

In addition to teaching the use of computer beyond Twitter and Facebook, the tech center will engage young people with S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and math) activities and provide computer and financial literacy workshops for adults. The community space will be available for meetings and classes.

"One of the biggest misconceptions about the YMCA is that it's just a place to go workout or a place to go learn to swim. The Y is so much more than that; it's a community in and of itself," said Kristine Allard, vice president of development and communications. "You'll have people of all ages and all physical abilities coming in there for health, social, whatever the case may be. We'll be

filling that void that we've heard about in talking to other organizations in the community and the people who work and live here."

Allard expressed that they're not looking to compete with existing wellness facilities in town. Instead, the Y Express hopes to provide for more people by means of nurturing businesses already in the area. They will draw in more traffic and increase walk-by patronage as well as provide a way for families to spend more time together.

"People are challenged with their time right now. If you want to exercise and practice healthy habits, it sometimes means time away from your family," she said. "There should be a safe place where kids can participate in a craft activity or get help on an academic project while mom and dad take a group exercise class or use the wellness center."

If everything goes to plan with the community campaign, pledges and written commitments set by mid-November will allow build out to begin in January 2013 for the Y Express opening in May. All financial promises will be settled by December 2013.

Smith said that the YMCA, currently serving 14 cities and towns as an association for the Springfield area, is extremely committed to the



Turley Publications submitted photo

YMCA of Greater Springfield held a Cottage Party at Six Flags New England in May. Pictured (from left) are state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, Six Flags President John Winkler, Agawam Mayor Richard A. Cohen, and YMCA President and CEO Kirk Smith.

project. If the funds are not raised by the initial November deadline, they will extend it and continue efforts to bring the wellness and program center to Agawam.

"I think that the YMCA of Greater Spring-

field serving Agawam is nothing new. It's not some regionalization; it's what we've been doing and we want to take that commitment deeper and we want to meet the needs," said Smith. "Mayor Cohen has been a great

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Seniors

Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

In recent years, the Agawam Senior Center Music Room has held an open house on the Friday that coincides with some Agawam High School class reunions. This will continue Friday, Sept. 7 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. for the Class of 1962. This was the year of the "Annie Get Your Gun" musical and the band trip to Iowa for the "Music Man" contest.

Class members, family and friends are invited to the senior center for a showing of the video of Agawam musicals at 12:30 p.m. and the band trip video at 1:30 p.m.

There will be table displays set up that day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the public is invited to view the photo book and scrapbooks of their high school years. Some CDs and DVDs will also be available as well as the opportunity to see all areas of the Music Room and its contents.

The Senior Center Chorus meets Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. and welcomes anyone who would like to sing "old" songs. The chorus performs at a few programs, but is also a great social club, so bring your friends and have a great time. You don't have to be a great singer, as we do have some good voices to help carry us along.

The Melody Band gets together on Thursdays at 2 p.m. sharp and is busy performing at various venues in the area. Visitors are welcome and at times, there are openings in the group on various instruments. There are performances out of town on some Thursdays, so it is best to check on any particular day.

A new group on "rhythm" will begin on Thursdays at 1 p.m. We will start with just fingers and hands, but eventually, get into some rhythm instruments. The direction the group takes depends on the members and their interests.

Senior Center Friends to meet Sept. 5

The Friends of the Agawam Senior Center will meet Wednesday, Sept. 5 in the center's dining hall. All Friends members are invited to attend as well as anyone interested in seeing what the group is about.

Tickets are available for \$5 for the Friends English Tea to be held Friday, Sept. 7 at 4 p.m. Music will be provided by Chick Maniscalchi on piano and Donna Kennedy on flute.

Senior Center's weekly calendar of events

Monday, Sept. 3: Labor Day. Senior Center Closed.

Tuesday, Sept. 4: Class Registration; 11:30 a.m., Rep. Boldyga Office Hour; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie; 2:30, Chorus; 4:15 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dancing; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, Sept. 5: 8:15 a.m., Yoga, Weight Training; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 10 a.m., Friends Meeting; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Beginner's Computer Class, Ballroom Dancing Lessons; 1:30 p.m., Chapter

2 Meeting, Guys and Dolls Pool Club; 6-8 p.m., Western Mass. Genealogy.

Thursday, Sept. 6: 9 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing II; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Rhythm; 2 p.m., Melody Band; 6:30 p.m., Pitch; 7 p.m. Autism Support Group.

Friday, Sept. 7: 9:15 a.m., Oil Painting; 9:30 a.m., Hand and Foot Card Game; 11:15 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Cribbage; 4 p.m., Friends English Tea; 5 p.m., Zumba with Donna; 7 p.m. Applause Series at Library.

Agawam Senior Center lunch menu

Monday, Sept. 3: Labor Day. Senior Center Closed.

Tuesday, Sept. 4: Tortellini with 3-meat Ragu tomato and cucumber salad, peaches.

Wednesday, Sept. 5: Chicken tetrazzini over egg noodles, California blend veggie,

pears.

Thursday, Sept. 6: Country pie, garden salad, pudding.

Friday, Sept. 7: Linguine with red clam sauce, Caesar salad, baked good.

In the Classroom

Rosie Robotics teams gear up for school year



Turley Publications submitted photo

The Agawam High School Rosie Robotics team won the Chairman's Award at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) regional competition in March.

Welcome back to school, students! Are you ready for another year of learning? Want to have some fun as part of your education or want to try something different? Take a look at the world of FIRST robotics! FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire in young people a passion for successful careers in our technological world. Based in Manchester, N.H., this 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization designs accessible, innovative programs to build self confidence, knowledge and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math.

Rosie Robotics provides an opportunity for students to explore their talents and interests through various activities throughout the school year. Although the title of the program seems to hint that it's all about robots, it is really about building students. The robot is the tool used to drive home the classroom lessons learned in each grade level. Rosie has graduated students that have become engineers, teachers, chefs and business owners.

Do you need to have an IQ of 200 or be a robotics nut to join? No – we just ask that you try your best, but geniuses are welcome. Does it take a commitment of six days a week like some of the town's sports teams? No, any amount of time given and talent offered are welcomed. As the saying goes, the more one

puts in, the more one gets out. One of the most rewarding challenges for the various adult mentors is to discover along with the students where their interests and talents lie, and to foster and develop those talents.

Over the summer, the parents, teachers and mentors of Rosie Robotics have been busy putting together an opportunity you do not want to miss. We have expanded the program by starting a FIRST robotics team in every school in Agawam. Some schools even have multiple teams. As of this writing, there are two at AHS, as well as Agawam Junior High School; 2 FIRST LEGO League (FLL) teams at the Doering School, and more FLL teams scattered throughout all the elementary schools for the 4th graders. Also, we have several Junior FLL teams at each of the elementary school level for grades 1-3.

The Agawam Robotics Education Association, Inc. (a 501 (c) (3) non profit corporation) is an organization of parents and mentors to provide additional funding for the programs district wide. Our vision is to see that the opportunity of participating on the various FIRST teams in Agawam is available to all.

For more information on the Agawam FIRST programs and how you can make a difference in the education of Agawam students, contact Jack Barry at AHS or Dana P. Henry by email at dphenry58@comcast.net.

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Retired teachers chart new paths

DEPARTURES, from page 1

until I was burned out,” said Thomson. He added that this summer seemed like any other as he often found himself thinking about the start of school.

That’s partly because he’ll be teaching at American International College. “I’ve taught at the college part-time for many years and I’m looking forward to taking on new responsibilities,” said Thomson, who grew up in Agawam and now lives in Westfield.

“I’ll miss all the smiles and hugs of the kids as well as the camaraderie and friendship of my colleagues,” said Toussaint, 64, who retired last December.

Toussaint started substitute teaching at the former Peirce School – now the police station – in 1970 when she was 22. After substituting for five years, she took a brief break, then returned to teach kindergarten full-time – and stayed for 37 years.

Toussaint was a K-4 English as a second language teacher (ESL) at Clark and Granger schools during her last five years.

Recycling, not retiring

Toussaint said she’s “recycling” herself in retirement. “I love being retired. It gives me more hours to work in my garden, decorate my house, and spend time with my family. I just took up golf, I plan to write a children’s book and will go back to school – I’m not done with learning.”

Mardeusz, who briefly considered a nursing career, became a teacher because she always enjoyed learning and working with children. “No one else in my family had been a teacher, so teaching allowed me to share my enjoyment with others.”

She taught nearly all the elementary-level academic subjects, from reading, writing, and spelling to math, science, and social studies.

“The actual teaching of students was what I liked best. What I liked least was all the paperwork, such as planning and correcting papers.”

Students best part of teaching

For Thomson it was his love of music and his respect for some of his AHS teachers, primarily band director Darcy Davis, that drew him to teaching music.

“The best part of teaching was my students. They were the best teachers for me.” Like many teachers, however, Thomson didn’t always enjoy the required non-teaching duties. “This took time away from my students.”

Toussaint flirted with an acting career while in college before she started teaching. “I loved acting, but I never regretted becoming a teacher – it’s my true love and passion,” said the Agawam native who now lives in East Granby, Conn.

“I had a learning disability as a child, so I wanted to teach first grade and help children learn to love reading,” she said.

Toussaint first exhibited her talent for teaching when she was a child. “One of my favorite things was to ‘play teacher’ in my neighborhood,” she recalled. “I wasn’t bossy to other kids – I just liked to teach.”

But it was her third-grade teacher, Eloise Clark, who really sparked Toussaint’s desire to teach. “Eloise is my true inspiration. She’s 91 now and still lives in Feeding Hills. During my first five years of teaching, I taught next



Sheryl Mardeusz stands in front of the Benjamin J. Phelps School where she taught third grade from 1991 until retiring in June. She began her education career in Agawam in 1974 as a teacher’s aide at the James Clark School.

door to her. She’s one of my best friends and came to my retirement party.”

Toussaint said helping children find their “gift” was the best part of her work.

“Every child has a special gift and my job as a teacher was to find it,” she said. “I feel I’ve done my job when I run into some of my former students who are now in their 30s and 40s, who have successful careers, and who tell me I was one of their favorite teachers.”

Mardeusz, Thomson, and Toussaint said a number of things have changed during their teaching years – some for the better and some not.

Technology and teacher testing

“The technology component has been the biggest change,” said Mardeusz. “Computers, iPads, and interactive white boards are now common in the classroom. Another change has been that most mothers work outside the home today.”

She added that it’s “definitely harder” to become a teacher today because of mandatory new teacher tests for licensure. Mardeusz said the test may not always be beneficial to the teaching profession.

“College students who earn excellent grades and work well with students often can’t become teachers because they can’t pass the new teacher test.”

Mardeusz said along with making aspiring teachers invest time and money to pass a test, there is less respect for them when they enter the profession.

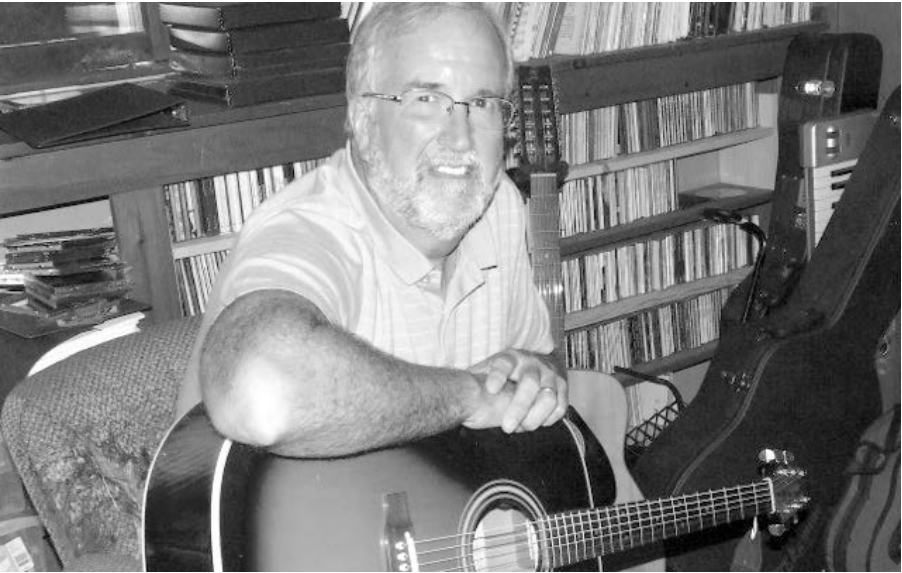
“The public perception seems to be that teaching is easy with lots of time off. Good teachers work very hard. They spend many extra hours before and after school helping students or preparing lessons. Many teachers also spend their own money for classroom supplies and resources.”

Thomson agreed that technology and a reliance on computers – nonexistent in the classroom when he started teaching – have made a



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

Jackie Toussaint, who retired from teaching in Agawam in December after 37 years, points to a photo of her third grade teacher, Eloise Clark, who attended Toussaint’s retirement party. Now 91, Clark was Toussaint’s inspiration to become a teacher.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

A love of music was one of the reasons that Scott Thomson – shown in his Westfield home – became a music teacher in Agawam in 1975. He retired in June and will be working part-time at AIC.

dramatic difference. “New technologies and computers have really opened up many new exciting opportunities for teaching.”

Impact of education reforms

He added that one of the greatest challenges for him and other teachers has been the various education reform attempts. “I don’t feel this has been beneficial for our students. The arts and social studies have suffered the most. We’ve lost sight of developing a full human being.”

Toussaint said the state’s special education law – passed in 1972, and known as Chapter 766 – was one of the most dramatic changes she saw during her career. The law also was the model for federal special education legislation.

“There weren’t many programs to help children with special needs when I started. State and federal laws changed that by giving all children the right to a public education and also providing them with advocates. The laws provide children suffering with disabilities the opportunity to lead more productive lives

than years ago,” said Toussaint, who received her master’s degree in special education.

Looking back on their long careers in Agawam, Mardeusz, Thomson, and Toussaint said they had many proud moments.

“My proudest moments are when former students tell me I inspired them to become teachers or they’re happy because their child is in my classroom,” said Mardeusz.

“I’ve had a long, wonderful career in Agawam – and too many ‘proud moments’ to even list. They all revolve around my students, and their ability to always strive for a better performance,” said Thomson.

“The crowning touch to my career – and one of my proudest moments – came five years ago when I received a Pioneer Valley Award for Excellence in Education from the Grinspoon Foundation,” said Toussaint. “It was wonderful to receive that award because it recognized my teaching skills.”

Retiring educators honored by town, state officials

By Mike Lydick

Turley Publications Correspondent

Twenty educators – 16 teachers, one administrator, and three paraprofessionals – who collectively had a combined 536 years of service in Agawam schools, recently retired.

The retirees who ended their careers during the 2011-2012 year or at the end of school were honored by Agawam School Superintendent William Sapelli and members of the school committee in June. Sapelli called the retiring educators “dedicated and committed professionals” as he began the presentation. He then presented each retiree with a certificate.

Sapelli said Agawam started a tradition several years ago to honor any staff member who reaches 35 years of service in the district. A special plaque is created that includes the person’s name and his or her photo. The plaque is then hung in a special “Hall of Fame” area in the superintendent’s office. When the person

retires, he or she is presented with the plaque.

Agawam Mayor Richard A. Cohen, who chairs the school committee, presented the retirees with a citation from the town. State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, was also on hand to congratulate the retiring educators and give them special citations from the State House of Representatives. State Sen. Michael Knapik, R-Westfield, also had citations that were given to the retirees, but he was unable to attend the presentation to hand them out.

Cohen said that saying good-bye each year to retiring educators is “a sad time for us, but a happy time for them.” He said many of those retiring had given a majority of their lives to educating Agawam students. “Thank you for all that you have given to our students and to our town,” he said.

“We are truly fortunate to have such wonderful, fantastic teachers and administrators who truly care not only about their students but also about their families,” added Cohen.

Retiring teachers include:

- Margaret Bielin, K-4 music teacher, Phelps and Robinson Park schools – 26 years
- Ann Boskiewicz, grade 8 language-based teacher, junior high school – 23 years
- Richard Cowles, school counselor, Roberta G. Doering School – 33 years
- Kathleen Doody, grade 7 health teacher, junior high school – 28 years
- Ralph Figy, high school counselor – 24 years
- Judith Hogan, grade 7 family consumer science teacher, junior high school -- 34 years
- Sheryl Mardeusz, grade 3 teacher, Benjamin J. Phelps School – 37 years
- Betty Murphy, grade 5 teacher, Roberta G. Doering School – 25 years
- Maureen Quinn, high school social studies teacher – 25 years
- William Rice, high school science teacher – seven years
- Janet Rousseau, grade 6 teacher, Roberta G. Doering School – 12 years

- Gloriajean Sheiber, reading recovery teacher, Roberta G. Doering School – 31 years
- Karen Shugrue, junior high school library/media specialist – 34 years
- Barbara Stevens, high school physical education teacher – 35 years
- Scott Thomson, junior high school instrumental music teacher – 37 years
- Jacqueline Toussaint, K-4 English as second language teacher, Clark and Granger schools – 42 years (37 years full-time teaching, five years as a substitute teacher)
- Sandra Howard, principal at the James Clark School, retired after 18 years in Agawam.

In addition, three paraprofessionals also retired:

- Brenda McDade, junior high school language-based paraprofessional – 23 years
- Mary Parent, junior high school language-based paraprofessional – 23 years
- Donna Scherpa, junior high school language-based paraprofessional – 26 years

Tips for staying organized this school year

By Sarah Platanitis
Turley Publications Correspondent

Staying organized during the school year is like learning multiplication tables. It takes a great deal of practice before you know it by heart. Here are some manageable strategies to start the year off right and make the back-to-school transition simpler for any age.

Make mornings easier. A little extra sleep never hurt anyone before a busy day. Take a little time at night to get the breakfast table set, clothes picked out, and lunches and backpacks ready to go by the door.

Everyone helps. Get a storage tote or basket for everyone in the family to wrangle household clutter so they can put it away later. A single bin is even better with everyone taking turns to return items to their original places every day. A bottom pantry shelf is a great spot for lunch boxes and box of school supplies. Low hooks let little ones hang up coats and bags instead of leaving them wherever on the floor.

Check backpacks. Emptying backpacks each night helps manage the myriad of school papers that come home each week. It also keeps you up-to-date with what’s going on

during your child’s day and a great time to check how heavy his or her backpack may be.

Doctors and physical therapists suggest no more than 10 to 15 percent of their body weight. Unpack the “unnecessaries” like laptops or video games and ask that kids only bring home the books they need for their homework each night.

“Getting organized is key to success but it doesn’t necessarily mean that students need to carry around extra pounds of paperwork,” said Colleen Morin, an English teacher at Agawam High School. “In fact, I believe that time management is more important than being organized. Planning and setting aside reasonable time is easy but you also need to add in self-discipline to make it work.”

Make a communication station. Whether it be your fridge or a large corkboard from your nearby office supply store, a regularly checked area with the family calendar or important papers binder will keep everyone informed of meetings, after-school activities and free time.

At hand notecards with envelopes and plenty of pens are spot-on for quick home-to-school communication. A \$1 notebook next to the telephone is a genius idea to keep family and phone messages all in one place. Color-coded sticky notes for each person in the house gives a whole new meaning to taking a quick glance

at the schedule.

A windfall of papers. After checking backpacks, separate papers into two piles: high-priority and reference. Sign permission slips right away and clip other important ones to a spot next to the family calendar after writing down important dates like open house, PTO meetings and parent-teacher conferences.

Sports season schedules, class lists, and teacher contact information to keep throughout the school year should go in an easy-to-locate three-ring binder. Add a pocket folder and there’s a designated space for doctor notes, report cards, and awards.

For schoolwork and artwork, toss unwanted items as soon as they come in the house. File away the keepers into a storage bin that you go through after every report card so the best pieces, even that construction paper macaroni art project, will stand out!

Stick to a daily homework routine. Start by asking which two things your child needs to do for the next day then block out two hours of distraction-free quiet time to get them started. The kitchen table is a perfect homework spot, not only because it’s a central place with room to spread out but it also lets you help when necessary. Study breaks are important when there’s a mountain of work to complete so grab a kitchen timer and don’t be afraid to

use it.

“Agendas are very helpful when kept updated. I have seen very capable students have terrible grades because they couldn’t keep up with their due dates, and those who were diligent with their agendas did not usually fall into that category,” said Erica Schlaffer, an English teacher at Agawam High School. “By maintaining the motivation and organization you begin with in September throughout the year means that you are always working to your full potential.”

Finally, create a “don’t forget” space. A short checklist by the door can be read by a young child so an older one can run to retrieve forgotten sneakers for gym day or an instrument for band practice. It also gives you a moment to grab car keys and your things plus a sip of your morning beverage to start the day on a good note.

“I find the more organized I am, the more efficient I am,” said Schlaffer, mother of 4-year-old Juliet. “I have to keep reminding myself throughout the year that I need this balance to be productive and sane. It’s the zen of it, really.”

For more tips on how to keep your family organized for the new school year, visit theorganizedparent.fcorgp.com.

Agawam Schools’ weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Thursday, Sept. 6: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.
Friday, Sept. 7: Hot dog on a whole-wheat roll w/assorted condiments, Smart Food popcorn, fresh chopped coleslaw, watermelon, ice-cream sandwich.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL
Thursday, Sept. 6: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.
Friday, Sept. 7: Hot dog on a whole-wheat roll w/assorted condiments, Smart Food popcorn, fresh chopped coleslaw, watermelon, ice-cream sandwich.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Thursday, Sept. 6: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.
Friday, Sept. 7: Hot dog on a whole-wheat roll w/assorted condiments, Smart Food popcorn, fresh chopped coleslaw, watermelon, ice-cream sandwich.

Registration open for kindergarten social

The Agawam Family and Community Program will host a free kindergarten social Sept. 4 at 6 p.m. and again Sept. 6 at 10 a.m. at the Agawam Public Library. This event is designed for Agawam students entering kindergarten in September. The first day of school can be filled with joy and reservation. The public is invited for storytime, craft and activities. Each student will leave with a new book courtesy of the Agawam Family and Community Program. Registration, which is required, is available by calling the library at 789-1550 ext. 3 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.



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The Smith Family has been operating Agawam Auto School since 1981, when Mr. and Mrs Smith founded the business. During this time they have employed hundreds of Agawam people on a part and full time basis, for many of these people it was a time of need for them. During this time the Smith’s have been very active in the Agawam community, made financial and time donations to countless organizations, sponsored many sports teams and clubs. Mr Smith taught public high school in Agawam for 35 years, coached Agawam sports teams for 30 years and was elected to the High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been in the driver education business for 32 years each. Their son Gerry has been with the driving school for 26 years and has also coached Agawam sports for 15 years. His wife Kerry has been in the family business for over a year now and has 9 years of public school teaching experience.

Agawam Auto School has been lucky to have many great instructors throughout the years that have made the school as good as it is. The current staff is equally as outstanding and very experienced. Al Mazza has been with Agawam Auto School for 10 years. Al also has been a motorcycle safety instructor for the state of Massachusetts for 11 years and has coached youth sports in Agawam for better than 10 years. Pam Votzakakis has been with the school for 10 years and has a bachelors degree in education. Jen Kakley has been with Agawam Auto School for 10 years and has also been a public school teacher for 10 years as well. Pam and Neal Crowley have been teaching at the school for 5 and 4 years respectively. Chris Lowery has been instructing for 4 years, Eric Hernandez for 3. Tom Sgroi has been teaching driver’s education for 12 years, taught public high school for 35 and coached high school sports for another 30.

As a combined current staff they have taught driver education for 160 years, 89 years of public school teaching service and 70 years of coaches kids.

Agawam Auto School is proud to serve the Agawam people and look forward to many more years of service.

— B SMITH

Kayem cleans at Robinson State Park



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Matt Monkiewicz prepares an area to have grass planted.

Maker of ‘Fenway Franks’ gives back to Agawam

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – Kayem Foods, the maker of the Fenway Franks, spent last Thursday cleaning up Robinson State Park and offering a free lunch as a part of its community service endeavor.

Senior Brand Manager Bob Kufferman led the effort for Kayem to clean up the park, saying the company recognized that the damage done by the June 2011 tornado had never been fully cleaned up.

“Unfortunately, the state was not able to do everything that needed to be done here,” said Kufferman. “There was a lot of damage done in the park and we thought it was a great site for this year’s clean-up.”

Doing community service in the form of a park cleanup or improvement is something the company has been doing for the past several years. Last year, Kayem went to Riverside Park in Hartford, Conn.

“We have clients we work with all over New England and they are people who buy our products,” said Kufferman. “We just want to give back.”

He said the company was considering coming out to Robinson last year, but the damage was too great for Kayem employees to make a real difference. This year, with trees removed and some lingering damage, Kayem employees bought and installed two grills near the pavilion, and also repaired and refurbished two existing grills.

Kufferman also said the company wanted to make a presence, and brought their truck and held a free lunch for anyone visiting the park. Kayem gave away unlimited hot dogs, chips, and water to visitors.



Employees of Kayem Foods and representatives from the Department of Conservation and Recreation took part in a check presentation. The \$2,500 will be used to purchase park benches.

“We had done the lunch before and people really responded to it,” said Kufferman.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation is in charge of Robinson State Park. Director of Development Evan Hines said the state needs efforts like Kayem’s to keep their parks’ maintenance up.

“This is a very great thing for Robinson State Park,” said Hines. “We are always looking to forge relationships with companies like Kayem. The work they are doing is fabulous.”

Hines said there are more than 500 acres of parks under its watch in Massachusetts. Kayem’s generous donation of time, resources, and equipment was appreciated.

Throughout the day, 12 Kayem employees planted new grass in some locations, and also spent time cleaning up and beautifying the small swimming area.

Agawam City Councilor Robert Magovern was able to stop by and enjoyed lunch with Kayem employees. He said the town should appreciate the park and support it.

“This is a great asset to Agawam,” Magovern said. “This clean-up was something that was needed. It was never fully cleaned up after the storm.”

Magovern said there is a group that advocates for Robinson State Park, but they are limited in resources. He believes the community should get more involved.

“We should be holding events here at the park that the town can take part in,” said Magovern. “Kayem had a picnic here for people. I think it would be great if the town had a picnic for everyone to attend.”

In addition to the grill work and planted grass, Kayem also made a \$2,500 donation to purchase park benches. The donation was made because the benches were not ready to be installed in time for the cleanup.

MGM lays its cards on the table

SPRINGFIELD – MGM Resorts International’s Chairman and CEO Jim Murren unveiled plans to develop an \$800 million dining, retail and entertainment district on about 10 acres of land heavily damaged by the June 2011 tornado in downtown Springfield.

MGM’s Springfield plan envisions a revived Main Street area with people walking along vibrant tree-lined streets overflowing with restaurant choices, a variety of shopping options for everyone in the family, an outdoor stage, movie theaters, a casino and hotel that all respect and feed off of the area’s existing iconic architecture. The concept for a central downtown retail and entertainment district also includes a pedestrian bridge between the MGM project and the Mass-Mutual Center.

The announcement came as MGM submitted its \$400,000 application fee to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC). The non-refundable application fee will go to both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the city of Springfield to fund the vetting and negotiating process that MGM hopes will result in a destination resort in Springfield.

While the new Massachusetts gaming law does not require that the application fee be submitted until later this year when the first MGC filing is due, MGM issued its check

early, along with its certification of intent to apply, as a sign of its commitment to Springfield.

“We believe this is a significant demonstration of our desire to partner with Springfield and it gives the MGC and the city the resources they need to move forward during this groundbreaking phase for a new industry in Massachusetts,” said Murren.

The MGM Springfield project would be developed on three city blocks located just 200 feet off Interstate 91 and only a few miles from the Massachusetts Turnpike. The blocks, where the devastation from last year’s tornado is still visible today, run between Union and State streets, and Columbus Avenue and Main Street. MGM controls several land parcels in the proposed development area, with many others under contract.

MGM Springfield could create thousands of permanent direct jobs as well as more than 2,000 construction-related jobs and thousands of additional indirect jobs. MGM Springfield could generate millions in annual tax revenues.

The more than half-million square foot mixed-used development project would include a 25-story 250-room hotel with world-class amenities including a spa, pool and roof deck; 89,000 square feet of gaming space; about 70,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space that would accommodate 15 shops and restaurants; and a multi-level parking garage.

Plans also envision an approximately 130,000 square-foot dining, retail and entertainment district, tentatively named Armory Square, and directly accessible from the garage parking. It would include about 25 dining and retail venues



Turley Publications courtesy graphic

On Aug. 23, MGM Resorts International unveiled its plan to develop an \$800 million dining, retail and entertainment district on 10 acres of land in Springfield.

including a 12-screen cinema, bowling alley and outdoor stage, to be developed by Davenport Properties of Boston, in partnership with MGM on land now occupied by the tornado-ravaged South End Community Center and Howard Street School. MGM, in conjunction with Davenport, hopes to be the successful bidder for those parcels when the city auctions them later this year.

MGM first announced in January that it was interested in a Western Massachusetts gaming license. After considering a Brimfield location, MGM sought a site that could accommodate a world-class entertainment complex.



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Rotary guest to speak on 'Y' Express in Agawam

The Agawam Rotary Club will meet at Storowton Tavern, Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 12:15 p.m. for its weekly luncheon. Guest speaker will be YMCA president Kirk Smith, who will speak about the new "Y" Express to be located in Agawam.

For information on the Agawam Rotary, visit www.agawamrotary.org. The Agawam Rotary is a proud member of Rotary International.

As Rotarians, they sponsor local scholarships and charities and raise money for local, national, and international service



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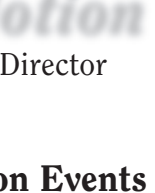
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Kindergarteners board the bus



Hannah Emmons, 5, loved her window seat, which offered her the perfect view.



Justin Manekas, 5, peers out the window, ready for his ride.

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club held its 39th First Time Bus Riders program featuring the Safety Bug at Agawam Public Library on Aug. 22. A total of 74 incoming kindergarten students and their parents participated to learn proper and safe bus riding techniques and helpful hints for the first day of school.

Students were afforded the opportunity to meet the Agawam safety officer and take a short ride on a school bus around the high school parking lot.

The AJWC is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts, Junior Membership. For information about other AJWC projects and events, visit <http://www.agawamg-fwc.com/>.

Turley Publications photos by Connie J. Casagrande



A long line of patient children and parents, excited to take their first bus ride.



Macenzie Belanger, 5, chose to be right up front and ready for school to start.



Making it all happen every year are Anna Mineo, co-chair for the event, the Safety Bug, and Donna Shibley, president of the Agawam Junior Women’s Club.



“Jimmy” the bus driver greets all the children with a friendly face.

Openings available for volunteer training

HOLYOKE - Are you interested in helping patients and families in your community make the most of the final months, weeks and days of life? Then becoming a hospice volunteer may be the opportunity for you.

Hospice Life Care, a non-profit program of the Holyoke Visiting Nurses Association, is accepting ap-

plications for a fall volunteer training.

The training will begin Tuesday, Sept. 18 and will meet every Tuesday morning for five weeks from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at a local nursing center in Holyoke.

Hospice volunteers provide a listening ear and companionship to

terminally ill patients and their families, visiting with them in the home and in nursing facilities throughout Hampden and Hampshire counties. Interested individuals will attend our comprehensive, training program and will receive monthly support and education throughout their volunteer experience. The training

is free to participants.

Also needed are individuals with licensed therapy pets and professionals trained in Reiki. Contact Leslie Hennessey at (413) 322-1281 or Lhennessey@holyokevna.org to begin the application process.

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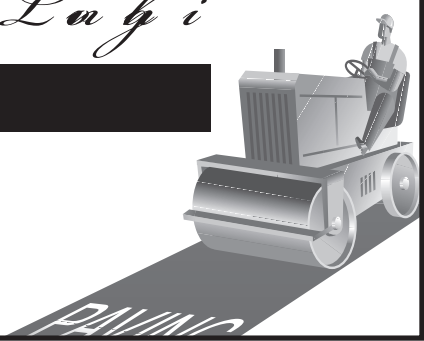
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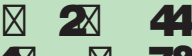
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SPORTS

Lady Brownies look toward continued success



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Taylor Lunden works to take possession.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School girls soccer team will take the field on Tuesday night against Amherst Regional High School. They will open the season the same way they ended last year, playing under the lights.

The Brownies will be looking to rebuild while still having some key cogs of their team from last season, but they will need to make up for the loss of several talented players due to graduation.

Leading the offense onto the field this season will be Riley Hellstein, who had an-

other quality year for Agawam. Coach Laura Wray-Ramos will be counting on Hellstein to score goals and set them up.

Other players returning to the team will include Ali Steuzel, who was brought up the varsity during freshman year and contributed some goals during the middle of the season. Taylor Lunden will also be returning to the team. Lunden played both midfield and offense for the Brownies.

The defense must make up for some tough losses with the graduation of sweeper Leisl Bard and goalkeeper Leah Dominique.

Alexa Smith was the backup in goal last year and will get the opportunity to play this season. Returning on defense will be starter Ali Charette.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Riley Hellstein advances upfield with the ball.

Much of the team is still being determined as the team goes through tryouts last week and early this week. Ramos will attempt work out her lineup toward the end of this week as the team heads into the Labor Day holiday and prepares to open up on Tuesday night.

The Brownies gave a valiant effort in their season ending defeat last year on Veterans Day at the hands of the eventual Western Massachusetts Division 1 champion East Longmeadow Spartans as they fell 3-0 at Elms College.

Agawam went 10-5-4 overall last season. It ended an excellent comeback season for the Brownies, who were ousted from the tournament early last season and made an excellent run this year by going through some of the toughest competition they have

seen in the past several years.

The Brownies would avenge a playoff loss from two years ago and a regular season loss this year when they beat Ludlow in the quarterfinals with a pair of early first half goals that held up. They also beat Minnechaug during the regular season and played very tough in both of their matchups against the Spartans.

This year, the Brownies will be back in the Kurty-Fielding Division. Their independent schedule includes a night game at home against neighboring rival Southwick-Tolland. The Rams upset Agawam the teams' meeting last year.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Lady Brownies look to make tournament run

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Scoring will be on the minds of the Agawam field hockey team as they return to action on Tuesday afternoon.

Agawam came up short in another attempt to win the Western Massachusetts Division 1 Championship as they lost to Longmeadow 2-0 in the finals. It was one of the most outstanding performances an Agawam team has put up in the finals, but their hopes were dashed for the third straight year.

This year, the Brownies will be returning several players, but graduated several scorers.

They also graduated starting goalie Jillian Newton. Newton will likely be replaced by Jordyn Conway, who spent some time in goal last season as she prepares for this season.

Christine Huestis once again takes the helm for the Brownies and will look find new scorers after graduating

Please see BROWNIES, page 8

New Agawam boys ready to take field

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam boys soccer team returns to action after being ousted from the playoffs by Amherst, 2-1. The Brownies had an excellent season heading into the playoffs that included a 13-game unbeaten streak.

The Brownies were adversely affected by the Oct. 29 snowstorm that changed their seeding when they were unable to make up their final regular season game.

The season ended, unfortunately, for the Brownies boys soccer team, and they received the fifth seed as a result.

They lost to Amherst 2-1 ending their 13-game unbeaten streak, a streak that propelled them from a .500 record early in the season, to a 9-3-5 regular season mark. They went 8-0-5 their final 13 games of the season.

John Alicea, who played very well for Agawam during the second half of the season, scored the tying goal in the first half to make it 1-1. But Amherst would score the go-ahead goal late in the first half and the Hurricanes defense took care of the rest and advanced them into the tournament semifinals.

Agawam's Colin Ritter had a great game with 12 saves. Amherst was last team to beat Agawam on Sept. 22.

Agawam will now look forward to the 2012 season, and will need to replace Ritter in the goal, who had a great year for the Brownies.

Agawam lost a number of players to graduation and will seek to fill some spots on offense and in the midfield positions.

As of press time, the roster was still taking shape for the Brownies. Coach Tom Smith will be looking to fill vacancies created by Mike Cortese and Cian O'Sullivan, both who were impact players for the Brownies during their defeated streak.

In the midfield, Jesse Jergensen will be back this season. Who will join him in the midfield will be determined during the preseason.

Agawam's schedule has some new matchups this season as they have changed around their independent games. Still on the slate is a matchup against New Bedford. Agawam has played them the past three seasons. New Bedford is one of the top ranked teams in the state and the Brownies have continued to play them very tough, getting ties the past two years.

Agawam will be hosting Pioneer Valley Regional on Tuesday at 4 p.m. They will also be playing Mohawk, Holyoke Catholic, Ware and St. Mary's this season. With the exception of Mohawk, all are Division 3 teams.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Tigers capture U14 TWIST Invitational Soccer Tournament

WALLINGFORD - The Berkshire Tigers U14 team captured the U14 Title of the Wallingford Invitational Soccer Tournament by defeating Wallingford 3-1.

The Tigers which are comprised of 10 players from the Agawam Tigers U14 team who recently repeated as Pioneer Valley D1 champs for 2011 and 2012 and was a MTOC participant in each of those seasons. The Tigers also have six players from Southwick a Southwick team that was D2 Pioneer Valley champs and round out with one from West Springfield and Belchertown.

The Tigers won their first two matches 5-1 and 5-1 over Foundation SC and CT Select from Connecticut. Berkshire also defeated the Long Island Rough Riders 8-0 in their third game.

The semifinal match put the Berkshire squad against Division 1 Connecticut state champion in Brazil FC of CT. Brazil FC had not allowed a goal in the tournament and was undefeated in 24 previous matches, including knocking Berkshire out of last year's tournament 2-0. The Tigers came out playing hard in a back and fourth match that saw a very physical match with both teams going hard. Berkshire though would strike first when Tyler Graves, coming of a Trevor Lyne pass, hit a spectacular shot inside the box over the reach of the keeper to give Berkshire a 1-0 lead. The half ended at 1-0 and Brazil came out pushing hard in the second half, but a defense led by Chris Noto, Joe Mozdzanowski, Cam Verville, Nick Kubacki, and Zack Girard shut down the potent attack.

Berkshire keeper Pat King was very solid in net and came up with two big saves in the match. Anthony Sciertelli was very solid at center midfield and Eugene Cone continued to play brilliantly at outside mid. The game would get very physical down the stretch but



Turley Publications submitted photo

The Berkshire Tigers U14 team won the U14 Title of the Wallingford Invitational Soccer Tournament. Pictured are: back row (from left to right) assistant coach Joe Sciertelli, Trevor Lyne (Agawam, Suffield Academy), Tyler Graves (Agawam, Agawam High School), Chris Noto (Agawam, AHS), Anthony Sciertelli (Agawam, AHS), Ryan Todesco (Southwick, Southwick-Tolland Regional High School), Zack Girard (Southwick, St. Mary's), Brendan Garvey (Agawam, AHS), Eugene Cone (Agawam, AHS) and coach Brian Regnier. Front row: Nick Kubacki (Belchertown, Wilbraham & Monson Academy), Luis Nieves (Agawam, AHS), Tyler Hall (Southwick, Westfield Voke), Declun Odonnell (Southwick, SHS), Pat King (Southwick, SHS), Beau Davis (West Springfield, West Springfield High School), Joe Mozdznawoski (Agawam, Pioneer Valley Christian), Cam Verville (Agawam, AHS) and Tymothy Regnier (Agawam, Wilbraham & Monson Academy).

Berkshire was up to the task and finished Brazil off 1-0 in an amazing and hard fought match.

Berkshire would defeat Wallingford in the final 3-1. Trevor Lyne was unstoppable as he scored all three goals, one triple teamed, to give Berkshire a strong lead that they would not give away. Tymothy Regnier, Anthony Sciertelli, and Brendan Garvey played very well at midfield. Beau Davis, Tyler Hall, Declan Odonnell, and Luis Nieves gave the banged up team a much needed boost playing well in place of some injured players.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Hyrax
4. Considerateness
8. Expressed pleasure
13. 1896 Ethiopian battle
15. Hawaiian dance
16. Khaki colors
17. Southern soldiers
18. Musician Clapton
19. 58703 ND
20. Letterman's hometown
23. Fr. Riviera resort
24. Wrath
25. Put up with something
27. Divertimento
32. Comportment
33. Toward the mouth
34. Take in marriage
35. Composer of Rule Britannia
36. Central parts of fruits
38. Ice hockey goal
39. Lair
40. A citizen of

Denmark
41. Algeria's 2nd largest city
42. Buildings
44. Extensive landed property
46. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
47. Cereal grass spikelet bristles
48. Gives you instant long locks
55. Umbrian industrial city
56. Cheremis language
57. Wm. the Conqueror's burial city
58. Beach (French)
59. 7th Hindu month
60. Tightly curled hairstyle
61. Niches
62. Connects the keel & sternpost
63. Take a seat

CLUES DOWN

1. Persian dialect
2. Yemen port & gulf
3. Switchboard (abbr.)
4. From that place
5. Invisible emanations
6. Shear
7. Mexican tortilla dish
8. Highly regarded
9. Said of a city that "rose up"
10. Turkish district
11. Of a very dark black
12. Fall back time
14. Inanely foolish
21. Furnish with help
22. Former Italian monetary units
25. Made public by radio or television
26. Aka sesame
27. Skin infections
28. Before
29. Being cognizant of

30. Ballet dancer impressionist
31. Eve's garden
32. Produced
36. Hiding place for storage
37. A single unit
38. Napoleon's birthplace
40. Daily journals
43. Hanging threads edging
44. A canvas canopy
45. Central nervous system
47. Nest of an eagle
48. Assist
49. Father of Araethyrea
50. Yuletide
51. A piece of work
52. Clods
53. St. Philip, Patron of Rome
54. Arrogant & annoying person
55. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

Nominees sought for McCarl Award

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School Boys Soccer Parent Association is looking for nominations for this year's Jeff McCarl Award, which is given to an outstanding contributor to Agawam soccer.

Kirstin Hughes, co-president of the association, said the award has been a tradition for many years in Agawam and actually started with an annual alumni game played between varsity players and a team made up of high school alumni.

"A game would be held and after the game the players would vote on who played best against the alumni and they would be given the award at the annual soccer banquet," said Hughes. "It was a great tradition for many years with the alumni game."

But changes were made to the alumni game, and the award continued by being given to someone that has gone above and beyond for youth or high school soccer.

Last year, the award was given to Dan O'Sullivan in 2011, a longtime coach in town. His son, Cian O'Sullivan, has been a prominent member of the Agawam High School boys soccer team for the past two years. Recent previous recipients have included Edward Dean in 2010, Phil Leclair in 2009, and Dave Costa in 2008.

"We think it is really great to be able to honor someone who has given a lot back to our community and to our kids soccer teams," said Hughes.

The award was named for Jeff McCarl, a student and soccer player for Agawam High School, when his life was cut short the summer of 1975.

"Each year we give out an award in Jeff's name to acknowledge someone from our town who has dedicated their time and support to youth soccer in Agawam," said Hughes.

The award is scheduled to be given out at this fall's annual banquet, which is traditionally held on the third Monday in November, Hughes said. A date will be forthcoming later this fall.

Residents are being asked to contribute ideas for nomination for the 2012 award. Hughes is hoping for names to be contributed at the upcoming association meeting scheduled for Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library.

Anyone who is unable to make the meeting can contact Hughes at 413-563-2212. They can also e-mail nomination at hugheskirsten@gmail.com. Be sure to include reasons for the nomination.

The meeting of the association will collect the names and possibly reach a decision at the Sept. 10 meeting.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

BROWNIES, from page 19

several contributing offensive players from last year. Kristina Kopyscinski and Caroline Daubitz leave the team and Meg Ripke and Rebecca Fondakowski also depart after giving the Brownies a good year on defense.

Senior Lauren Brodeur will help shore up the defensive end this year along with Katie Stempel will also see time on defense.

The rest of the lineup must still be finalized during the preseason, which began last week with a lot of energy and a strong desire to return to the finals. Agawam field hockey was the most successful program for the high school last fall.

To reach the finals, the Brownies defeated West Springfield 4-0, and No. 2 Northampton 3-0. Agawam's season ends at 12-5-3. Agawam scored a combined seven goals in the tournament prior to being shut out by Longmeadow.

Against Longmeadow, the Brownies struggled as they lost to the Lancers for the third time last season. But Agawam did not hand Longmeadow another championship as they held strong for the first 30 minutes of the game and sent the game to halftime with a 0-0 score.

Agawam certainly gave the Lancers a lot of problems as their defense performed very well against Longmeadow for the majority of the 60 minutes of play. But Agawam's lack of offense made the real difference in the game. Longmeadow would score a goal two minutes into the second half, and then again during 50th minute of the game.

After opening up on the road, Agawam will come home and play Amherst Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Agawam will see Smith Academy among independent games this year. Independent games are still being scheduled.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

GOLF OUTINGS

25th Annual HCC Foundation Golf Classic Sept. 10

HOLYOKE - The HCC Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising arm of Holyoke Community College, will be holding its 25th annual golf tournament on Monday, Sept. 10, at Springfield County Club in West Springfield.

There are both morning and afternoon tee times available for individuals or foursomes.

The morning program begins with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. The \$150 entry fee includes greens fees, golf cart, breakfast, lunch and refreshments on the course.

The afternoon program begins with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. The \$175 fee includes greens fees, golf cart, lunch, dinner and refreshments on the course.

There will be golfing contests, raffle prizes and a silent auction.

Over 25 years, the annual HCC Foundation Golf Classic has raised nearly \$400,000 for HCC scholarships and educational technology for HCC classrooms. To register or sponsor the golf tournament, please go to www.hcc.edu/golf.

NEYF to tee off Sept. 10

BELCHERTOWN - The Northeast Center for Youth & Families will be hosting their inaugural golf tournament on Sept. 10 at Cold Spring Country Club, 336 Chauncey Walker St.

Four-person shotgun scramble is \$95 per player and includes 18 holes of golf with cart and a buffet dinner. Many prizes and giveaways.

Start time is 1 p.m.. Registration begins at noon.

To register, sponsor or donate contact Kelly Beaulieu at 413-529-7735, or email: golf@ncyf.org

Founded in 1972, NCYF serves more than 600 children and teens annually with a broad range of programs. Services include foster care, in-home therapy and after school programming.

2012 QHCC annual tourney to be held Sept. 14

BELCHERTOWN - The 2012 QHCC annual golf tournament will take place on

Friday, Sept. 14 at Cold Spring Country Club, 336 Chauncey Walker St.

Enjoy a relaxing day of golf at the newest golf course in our area.

Registration is at 10 a.m. with an 11 a.m. shotgun start.

Dinner at approximately 4 p.m.

For fee/admission information call 413-283-2418 or

email patty@qhma.com.

Not a golfer? Please consider donating to the raffle table or sponsoring a tee. Your Chamber needs your support!

Rotary Golf Tournament tees off Sept. 17

WILBRAHAM - The 20th annual Gregg Sapere Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, Sept. 17 at the Country Club of Wilbraham presented by the Rotary Club of Wilbraham and Hampden.

The tournament is to benefit the Wilbraham and Hampden community service programs and the Wilbraham 250th Anniversary Committee.

Lunch is at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at noon. The entry fee is \$130 per player and includes greens fees, two carts per foursome, lunch, dinner, prizes on all par-3 holes and a sport shirt for every player.

To attend the dinner only, the cost is \$30 per person.

First prize is \$2,500 and second prize is \$500, for the grand raffle in which tickets are \$50 each.

To sign up in a foursome, be a sponsor, or to play call Tom Counos at 596-2479.

Annual Rick Thorpe Golf Tournament set for Sept. 22

WILBRAHAM - The 11th annual Rick Thorpe Memorial Fund Golf Tournament, commemorating the anniversary of 9/11, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 22 at the Country Club of Wilbraham with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start.

The purpose of the tournament is to celebrate Thorpe's memory and to support the Rick Thorpe Memorial Fund, which gives two \$1,000 scholarships to a graduating male and female senior from Minnechaug Regional High School.

Payment of \$150 per player and registration should be mailed to Scatolini Insurance, 85 Post Office Park, Wilbraham. Checks should be made payable to Rick Thorpe Memorial Fund. The tournament is first paid, first serve and pre-registration is required.

The event is open to the public.

Included in the entry fee is golf, cart, lunch prior to tee off, prizes for the winners, and dinner. There will be a hole-in-one contest where the winner receives a brand new car, three closest to the pins and a women's and men's longest drive hole.

For more information call 413-596-2593 or visit www.rickthorpefund.org.

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Summer hoops fun

Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

WILBRAHAM - The Agawam seventh and eighth-grade girls outdoor summer basketball team dropped reached the quarterfinals of the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League. Here are pictures from the season.



Agawam's Brania Culhane (4) dribbles the ball up the floor.



Agawam's Kaila Keene (5) takes a look up the floor as she dribbles the ball.



Agawam's Erin Considine (20) looks for something to do with the basketball as she dribbles.



Agawam's Giavanna Ricci (23) prepares to shoot a free throw.



Agawam's Kaila Keene (5) goes in for a layup.

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United play in elite soccer tournament

By Tim Peterson
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

MONSON - During the past three years, the Western United U-13 boys soccer team, who are members of the New England Premier Soccer League (NEPSL), has been one of the best teams in the six state region.

"The NEPSL is made of the all of the top soccer clubs in New England," said Michael Rouette, who coached the Western United U-13 boys soccer team this past season. "There were more than 12 teams in our division and we were the U-13 New England league champions this year."

The Western United U-13 boys soccer team also won the league playoffs and was one of 12 teams invited to play in the National Premier League (NPL) Champions Cup tournament, which was held in Waukegan, Ill., at the end of July.

"We were able to win two championships this past spring, which really made our team very special," said Rouette, who was an outstanding soccer player at Monson High School back in the 1980's. "We were one of the 12 best teams in the country. We were invited to play in a National Tournament, which was very similar to the NCAA men's basketball

tournament."

The Western United team was placed in Flight B along with the Chicago Fire Juniors (Miss.), Chicago Magic Pre-Academy (Ill.), FC Portland (Ore.), Fullerton Rangers (Calif.), and the Player Development Academy (PDA), who were from New Jersey.

Their only loss of the tournament came against PDA in an opening round match.

"We had a 1-0 against PDA after the first seven minutes," Rouette said. "Then my center back received a red card. We were down one player the rest of that game against one of the top teams in the country."

The score was tied 1-1 at halftime before PDA took over in the second half leading to a 5-1 victory.

Twenty four hours later, Western United tied the Fullerton Rangers 2-2.

Both of the Western United goals against the Rangers were scored by Michael Alexander, who's from Ludlow.

"Michael Alexander is a big and strong striker," Rouette said. "He's just a fantastic soccer player."

The Western United team then wrapped up round robin play with a 2-0 shutout victory against the Chicago Fire Juniors before defeating FC Portland, 2-0, in a consolation match.

"We're just a little club soccer team, but we were able to play very well against some very good academy teams," Rouette said. "We ended up finishing in fifth place with a 2-1-1 record."

The other members of the Western United U-13 boys soccer team were Corey Brown, Cam DellaTorre, Evan Haynes, Samson Heyer, Connor Hicks, Casey Intrator, Chris Kalil, Jonathan Leclair, Noah Lussier, Trey Miller, Dylan Pooler, Max Robbins, Ian Saltmarsh, Charles Sanderson, Freddy Stokes, Travis Van Brewer and Benjamin Rickson.

"The team that played in the National tournament was a combination of players from my U-13 team and a U-14 team, which was coached by Mark Haynes," Rouette said. "We were able to add the older players for the National tournament because they used Academy rules. All of the players just had a great time playing soccer together."

Miller, who's from Monson, and Van Brewer, who's from Wilbraham, won't be returning to the Western United team next year. Both of them will be playing for the New England Revolution U-14 soccer team this fall.

While Miller and Van Brewer aren't allowed to play for their high school soccer teams, Hicks, who's from Monson will most

likely be playing for the Mustangs boys varsity team as an eighth grader this fall.

"Connor is going to be an impact player for the high school team because he's very fast," Rouette said. "They did change the age limit to play for the high school team, but Connor can still play for the Monson varsity team because he played last year."

The other local player on the team this year was Rickson. He lives in Warren, but he's a student at Tantasqua Regional High School in Fiskdale.

A couple of months ago, Western United and the Western Mass. Pioneers, who were rivals, joined together to become one big soccer club.

"It's like the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox coming together as one team," Rouette said. "We now have a super club with a lot of very good coaches and players. We'll be able to compete for a state cup championship and a New England championship at every age level."

Tim Peterson is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

Final fall baseball registrations

AGAWAM – The Final fall baseball sign ups for ages 12-15 (2012) little league (must be 12 years old before April 30, 2012) are set to be held

Games will be played September and October.

There will be approximately eight games that will be played at St. John's Field on Leonard Street, weather permitting.

Signups will be Thursday, Aug. 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. at School Street Field 1 (concession stand).

Sign up fee is \$60.

This Fall baseball league is to get the 12-year-old kids acclimated with the 90-foot diamond, interaction with other ages of kids, and

to keep the kids busy this fall.

Any questions, please contact Glen Aloisi at 413-531-0202 or Tom Gonet at 413-374-7202.

Gridiron Parents to host dinner dance

AGAWAM - The Agawam Gridiron Parents will host a dinner, dance and raffle, Saturday, Sept. 15 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Springfield Turnverein located on Garden Street in Feeding Hills.

The night will include food from E.B's Restaurant, a DJ, cash bar and a raffle with many prizes from area businesses. All proceeds will go to help support the Aga-

wam High School football program.

Any adult 21 or older is invited to join in the fun. Tickets, which are \$25 per person, are available in advance by calling Lyn Bussiere at 413-786-7492 or emailing agawamgridironparents@gmail.com.

Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the event.

Youth field hockey program

AGAWAM - Girls in grades 4-8 (12-13 school year) will learn the fundamental skills, techniques, and strategies of field hockey while practicing and playing in this fun program.

Girls will meet from late August through

October. Practices will be held in the early evening and games will be played against neighboring communities.

The fee is \$125.

Registration is taking place in the Parks & Recreation office, located at 1000 Suffield St. in the Municipal Annex, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As the program enters its ninth year and is growing rapidly, more coaches are needed. Anyone interested in coaching should indicate that on the registration form.

For more information contact Becky Les-carbeau at ralescarbeau@comcast.net or 413-789-4231.

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Precinct 2: Clifford M. Granger School, 31 South Westfield Street

Precinct 3: Agawam High School, 760 Cooper Street

Precinct 4: Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street

Precinct 5: Benjamin J. Phelps School, 689 Main Street

Precinct 6: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

Precinct 7: Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street

Precinct 8: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

on **THURSDAY, THE SIXTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2012** from **7:00 am to 8:00 pm** for the following purpose:

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Richard M. Theroux, Town Clerk

Public Safety

Fire Log

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 61 EMS calls for the week of Aug. 21 to Aug. 27.

On Aug. 21 at 12:39 a.m., the department responded to Meadow Street for sprinkler activation due to malfunction.

On Aug. 21 at 10:47 a.m., the department responded to Stevenson Lane for unintentional transmission of alarm.

On Aug. 22 at 12:50 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for a lockout.

On Aug. 22 at 2:01 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 rotary for road freight or transport vehicle fire.

On Aug. 23 at 8:01 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for alarm system sounding due to malfunction.

On Aug. 23 at 10:32 a.m., the department responded to North Westfield Street for public service assistance.

On Aug. 23 at 2:11 p.m., the department responded to South Westfield Street for public service assistance.

On Aug. 23 at 7:38 p.m., the department responded to Albert Street for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On Aug. 23 at 8:50 p.m., the department responded to Begley Street for a citizen complaint.

On Aug. 24 at 10:05 a.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for alarm system activation, no fire – unintentional

On Aug. 24 at 7:50 p.m., the department responded to North Westfield Street for public service.

On Aug. 26 at 8:15 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 rotary for a motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Aug. 26 at 8:38 p.m., the department responded to Kanawha Avenue for unauthorized burning.

On Aug. 26 at 10:38 p.m., the department was dispatched to Mansion Woods Drive but was cancelled en route.

On Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 rotary for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Aug. 27 at 8:44 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for a lockout.



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24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

*In state \$35, out of state \$40, for a one year subscription. GRAD12

Police Log

The Agawam Police Department responded to 391 calls from Aug. 20 to Aug. 27. The department made nine arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Wednesday, Aug. 22

A 16-year-old juvenile from Springfield was arrested on a charge of receiving stolen property over \$250 (three counts).

A 16-year-old juvenile from Springfield was arrested on a charge of larceny over \$250 (three counts).

Thursday, Aug. 23

Agosto Gamaliel, 18, of 108 Moore St., Apt. 4, Agawam, was arrested on an arrest warrant.

Friday, Aug. 24

Anthony Foley, 18, of 77 Gledale Road, Agawam, was arrested on charges of intimidating a witness and violation of abuse prevention order.

A 14-year-old juvenile from Agawam was arrested on two arrest warrants.

Saturday, Aug. 25

Curtis Upshaw, 32, of 65 Day St., Agawam, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Ryan Delbuono, 28, of 52 Young St., Apt. FL3, New Haven, Conn., was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Donald Hatzipetro, 49, of 33 Norman Terrace, Apt. 27, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Monday, Aug. 27

Madeline Rollo, 25, of 106 Cottage St., Apt. 2nd floor, Lemonister, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

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Obituaries & Church News

AUGUSTA DONATINI
Augusta “Gussie” (Tonelli) Donatini, of Agawam, died Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2012 in Country Estates of Agawam Nursing Home. She was born in Mondolfo, Italy, lived in Syracuse, N.Y., Springfield’s South End section and West Springfield Memorial Avenue section before moving to Feeding Hills in 1956. A graduate of Commerce High School, she worked at Milton Bradley’s, Sears Roebuck, ABC General Machine and Tool and Lauriente Nursery as a secretary/bookkeeper. She was an elected town meeting member in both West Springfield and Agawam. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church and its former Altar Society, a member of the Daughters of Columbus,

the Agawam Democratic Town Committee, the Democratic Women on Wheels and the Golden Agers. She was also a notary public and an elected trustee of the Whiting Street Fund. Her husband of 63 years, Nicholas Donatini, died in 1998. She leaves two sons and a daughter, William Donatini of Englewood, Fla., Daniel Donatini of Feeding Hills and Dorine Kubik of Feeding Hills; and a sister, Louise Gorgoglione of Florida. She was grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of seven. Her sister, Aldina Maynard, died in 1983. The funeral was from the Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home followed by Mass in Sacred Heart Church and burial in St. Thomas Cemetery.

JANET S. RICHTER
Janet S. (Lawson) Richter, 71, of Agawam, entered into eternal rest Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012 at home. Born in Bloomfield, Mo., daughter of the late Cyril and Sylvia (Norris) Lawson, she moved to Southwick in 1979 and to Agawam in 1994. Janet was a truck driver for Malady’s



Castle. She loved animals and also worked at the Eastern States Exposition guarding the judges who judge the horses in the Coliseum. She leaves her husband, Frederick W. Richter; a daughter, Tina M. Benson of Agawam; and two grandchildren, Jessica Benson and Joseph Foster. She was predeceased by a daughter, Tammie Foster in 2011; and two sisters, Jean Harrington and Carol Jenkins. The funeral was at the Agawam Funeral Home with a private burial.



Catholic Women’s Club news and upcoming events

The Agawam Catholic Women’s Club will host guest speaker Kevin O’Hara, writer, storyteller and photographer, at its Sept. 10 meeting to be held at St. John’s Parish Hall, 833 Main St., beginning at 6:30 p.m. All Catholic women of Agawam are invited to this meeting.

O’Hara, the winner of the 2012 John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Award, has read his homespun stories on numerous TV and radio stations in addition to appearing at countless libraries, colleges, and Irish pubs throughout New England. He will be regaling those in attendance with stories from his book, “A Lucky Irish Lad.”

The Agawam Catholic Women’s Club is a group of women who work to promote Catholic activities in town. Women of all ages are welcome. Members raises money to help the needy, visit shut-ins and nursing homes, and award scholarships to Catholic students.

Other activities include a fashion show, tag and craft sale, a church bazaar, a December party and an entertainment show held every year in March. Club membership provides a sense of community and friendship.

Elegantly Chic 2012

The Agawam Catholic Women’s Club will host its annual fashion show, “Elegantly Chic 2012,” Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at St John’s Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the preview. Wine, cheese and crackers will be served until the show starts at 7:30 p.m. with fashions from the Little Black Dress Shop of Enfield, Conn. Fashions will be available for purchase the night of the show.

Tickets, which are \$12, may be purchased by calling Angela at 786-5408, Paula at 789-0244 or Kathy 786-1985. Desserts and coffee along with door prizes and raffle prizes will be offered after the show.

Proceeds from this fashion show are to benefit needy families in Agawam.

Trading Post begins new season

The Trading Post Consignment Shop at the Agawam First Baptist Church, 760 Main St., will re-open Wednesday, Sept. 5 for take-in only (no sales). Opening day for sales will be Wednesday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The shop is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Updates may be found at firstbaptistagawam.org and the church Facebook page.



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News and upcoming events at Agawam Congregational

The public is invited to attend the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., “a place to call home - a people to call family.” Summer service is at 9 a.m. with fellowship and coffee hour following.

“Start-Up Sunday,” which will mark the return of the 10 a.m. service, is Sept. 9. There will also be a church school-teacher dedication, praise music, children’s messages and the choir will return.

A blood drive hosted by Baystate Medical Center’s blood mobile will be held Sept. 10 in the church parking lot. All donors will receive a free Big E ticket.

Playgroup returns Thursday, Sept. 13. The public is invited to join for crafts, stories, songs, free play and more on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Playgroup is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver. For more information, email jbrownacc@verizon.net or call 786-7111.

Men’s Ministry will meet Saturday, Sept. 15 at 7:30 a.m. at Bobby J’z in Agawam.

The Loaves and Fishes program will be held at the church Sept. 17.

The worship service on Sept. 23 will include the third-graders receiving bibles, church school and coffee hours.

Women’s Ministry meets Sep. 24 at 7 p.m.

Vendors are wanted for the annual “Holly Wreath Bazaar” to be held at the church Saturday, Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tables are available for \$20 each. For more information, call the church office at 786-7111.

Pastor Earl and his wife Barbara are always available for prayer after the service. Newcomers are welcome and members of the community are invited to participate in all church events. For more information, call the church office at 786-7111. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until noon.



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Business

‘Stockings for Soldiers’ campaign to begin Oct. 1

Hidden Treasures, located at 143 Main St., Agawam, has teamed up with Main Street Deli Restaurant & Catering, located at 141 Main St., Agawam, to show appreciation for our troops through the “Stockings for Soldiers” program. Beginning Oct. 1, stockings filled with gifts for our soldiers in Afghanistan will be accepted at both locations. For details and a list of products allowed, visit either store. Deadline for drop-off of stockings is Sunday, Nov. 11. Collections jars will also be available for donations to help defer the cost of shipping. A free gift for each stocking dropped off will be offered at either location (one gift per family, per store drop-off).

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF AGAWAM
PLANNING BOARD
The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, September 6, 2012 at 7:00 PM** in the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of the Agawam Planning Board on a proposed zoning amendment to Section 180-2 of the Agawam Zoning Ordinance entitled “Definitions and Word Usage”. A copy of the proposal can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.
BY ORDER OF:
Travis P. Ward, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
8/23,8/30/12

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD11P0595EA
Estate of:
Normand P Couture
Date of Death: 02/11/2011
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
REMOVAL
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been

filed by: **Joyce A Jerard** of Springfield MA requesting that **Paul G Couture** of Springfield MA be removed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate.
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 09/21/2012.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 24, 2012
Thomas P Moriarty Jr.
Register of Probate
8/30/12
Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD11P0595EA
Estate of:
Normand P Couture
Date of Death: 02/11/2011
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
REMOVAL
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been

Yoga studio part of international fundraising event

Second Wind Yoga, located at 327 Walnut St. Ext., Agawam, will take part in the 2012 Yoga Aid World Challenge, a 24-hour yoga event aiming to raise more than \$1 million for charity. Thousands of participants will attempt to create the first-ever international “yoga relay” Sept. 9. Beginning in Sydney, yogis around the globe will participate in a series of local, coordinated yoga classes, resulting in a ‘chain reaction’ ending in Los Angeles. William Clark, event organizer for Second Wind Yoga, encourages all local yogis in the area to take part at his studio on Sept. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with proceeds to benefit Off The Mat Into The World charity, co-founded

by Seane Corn. In addition to a 1 ½ -hour yoga class, a 20-minute yoga and activism discussion by Carrie Barrepski will take place and live Native American flute music will be provided by Antonio Aversa of www.crowspeaks.com. To register, visit www.yogaaid.com. Upon registering, participants will receive a fundraising web page which they can use to encourage friends and family to donate funds to their cause, as well as see the efforts of other yogis around the world participating in their local area. “Above all, this is about connecting people,” said Clark. “We just want to build community, and in doing so, support each other to make difference in the world.”

procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 24, 2012
Thomas P Moriarty Jr.
Register of Probate
8/30/12

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD12P1564EA
Estate of:
Greg A Kwasny
Date of Death: 06/26/2012
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Barbara A Kwasny** of Springfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as

requested in the Petition. And also requesting that: **Barbara A Kwasny** of Springfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond. You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 09/18/2012. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be

taken without further notice to you. The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 22, 2012
Thomas P Moriarty Jr.
Register of Probate
8/30/12

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legal notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271. Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.



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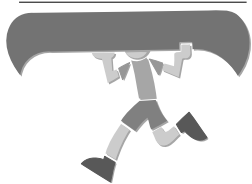
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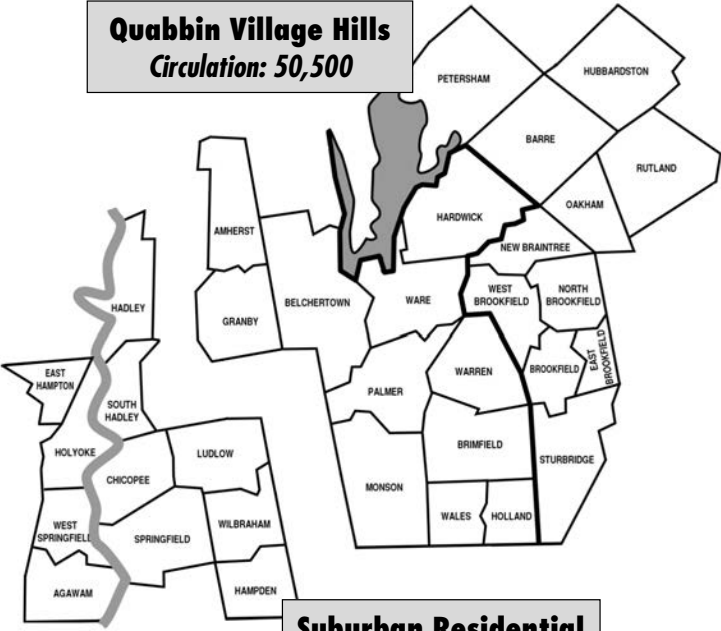
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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

CHICOPEE APT for rent in new duplex, 2 BR, 1.5 bath, ac, new appliances, deck, quiet locale. Utilities not included \$1,000/ mo. Call (413)478-1896

MONSON. 3 BEDROOM. Completely renovated, propane heat, lower than oil, very efficient. **NO PETS!!!** \$850/ mo. No utilities. F/L/S (413)783-0192. Mr. Allen.

For Rent

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

MONSON: 1 bedroom, 1st floor, washer/dryer hook-up, electric heat \$575 + utilities 1st, last required. (413)267-0246.

Dom Polski Apartments
144 Cabot Street, Chicopee
(413) 592-0686 Fax (413) 598-8206
Now accepting applications for our 2 bedroom waitlist
Affordable Housing for Elderly/Disabled Newly Renovated • Rent is Subsidized
Call to schedule a tour and pick up your application!
Income limits
1 person: 36,240 3 person: 46,560
2 person: 41,400 4 person: 51,720
PRESERVATION HOUSING MANAGEMENT

For Rent

PALMER 1BR ALL Applies Ldry/Stor in Bsmnt., Ctry Loc. No Pets/Smoking. 1st last sec. \$700 - Breton Est. 413-283-6940.

PALMER BONDSVILLE 1 bed \$670 mo., 2 BR, 1st \$780 mo. includes heat & HW, parking available, on site laundry. No pets. Available now (413)736-8987

PALMER ONE BEDROOM apt., convenient location, hot water included. No pets. \$500/mo (413)596-6286 or (413)289-9442.

PALMER THREE RIVERS. Country Manor apartments, 1 bdrm \$610 - \$630, 2 bdrm, \$770 month. All units renov. w/disposal, dishwashers, microwave, elec. range, carpets. Parking, fishing and playground. Cats okay. Call (413)283-9472.

PALMER. 4 BR, 2nd floor, w/d hook-up, eat-in kitchen, pantry, yard. Pet OK, off-street parking. \$1,100/ month (413)265-4712, (413)289-6247, (781)235-1739

PALMER. LG. STUDIO. Laundry on premises, off-street parking, w/w carpeting, quiet, convenient location. (413)454-1201.

PALMER'S NEWEST LUXURY apts, 1 and 2 bedrooms, large living room, spacious bedrooms w/w. Fridge, range, oak cabinets, off street parking, security lights, tenants laundry. 1-413-283-8673.

QUABOAG APTS 1ST FL, 4 rooms. Free heat & hot water, storage \$800/ mo. No pets. No smoking. (508)637-1520, (860)658-2101.

THORNDIKE 6 ROOMS, heated. 1st, last, security, references. Quiet neighborhood \$950/ month No Pets. Available immediately. (413)283-3657.

Commercial Rentals

GRANBY, RT 202, 320 sq ft office \$360. Ample parking. (413)427-4638.

Commercial Rentals

GRANBY, RT 202, 600 sq ft Business usage w/ overhead and walk through doors, \$380. Ample parking. (413)427-4638.

PALMER- 2000 SQ FT- High Visibility Area- 2 Bays- Showroom/ Office/ Storage- Remodeled- \$3000/ month- Breton Realty- 413-283-6940

Vacation Rentals

WARM WEATHER IS year round in Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-bedroom weeks available in 2012. Sleeps 8. \$3500. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

Auto For Sale

1999 VW BEETLE, 5-speed, roofracks. 122K miles. New battery & starter. 4 good tires. Runs good. Automatic windows, \$2,700 (413)267-9166.

Autos Wanted

\$\$\$ AUTOS WANTED TOP Dollar paid for your unwanted cars, trucks, vans, big and small, running or not. Call 413-534-5400.

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Town Reminder • Ware River News

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Out & About

Send all community calendar items to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457 or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. Please list time, date and place of event, contact information and a brief description of the activity involved. Deadline for all community submissions is noon on Monday.

Friday, Aug. 31

THE SWINGLES SQUARE DANCE CLUB will hold a Mainstream Dance from 8-10:30 p.m. (early rounds from 7:30-8 p.m.) at the East Longmeadow Senior Center, 328 North Main St., East Longmeadow. This will be the "Slap Happy Nite Dance." Cost is \$7 per person; singles and couples welcome, spectators free. For more information, call Dick Walker at (413) 525-3324.

Saturday, Sept. 1

A CAT FOOD DRIVE for outdoor, homeless cats, sponsored by Agawam Friends of Homeless Cats, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 175 Memorial Ave., West Springfield.

Wednesday, Sept. 5

FITNESS FIRST HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver's license with photo or state identification with photo is required to donate blood. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.

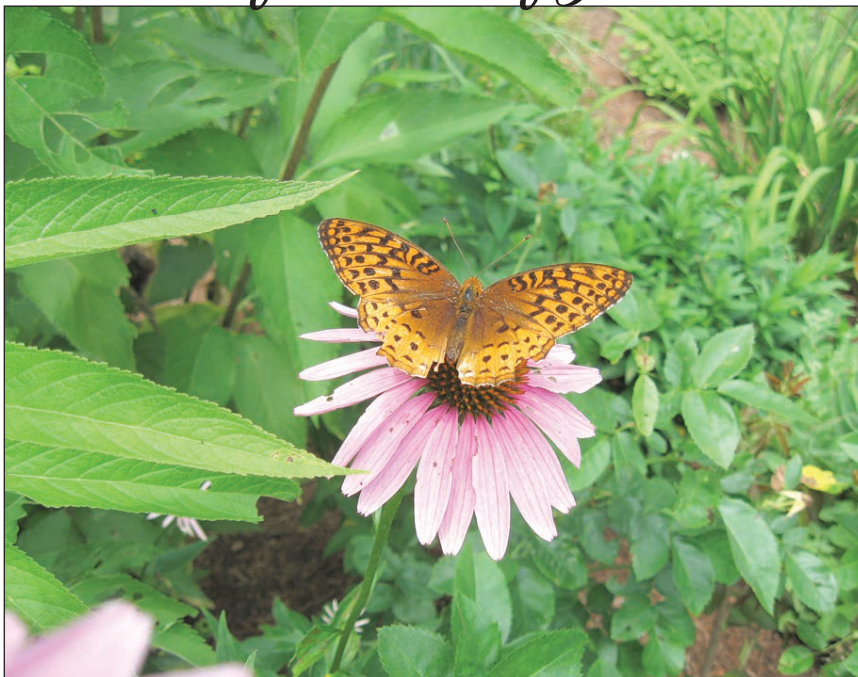
Thursday, Sept. 6

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie at 12:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL'S popular Applause Series gets underway for a ninth season Friday, Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. when Dane Scozzari and The Hu-

Beautiful butterfly



Turley Publications submitted photo

Agawam resident Ed Schultski sent us this photo of a butterfly he took at Stanley Park in Westfield in July. Do you have your own photo to share with our readers? Send it to *Agawam Advertiser News* Editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.

man Race bring their sound to the Community Room at the Agawam Public Library, located at 750 Cooper St. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at (413) 789-1550.

A FALL FESTIVAL will be held at Christian Life Center, 1590 Sumner Ave., Springfield, Saturday, Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free and activities offered will include face-painting, bounce houses, martial arts demo, crafts, games, Police K-9 demo and more. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 782-7171.

Arts

ACC welcomes new members

The Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) will meet Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public.

A great opportunity exists with the ACC for anyone with an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town. This all-volunteer organization, appointed by the mayor and

THE AGAWAM HISTORICAL AND FIREHOUSE MUSEUM, 35 Elm St., will feature an exhibit of "Agawam and the Native American," Sunday, Sept. 9 from 1-4 p.m. The museum will close for the season after this date.

A CARD, COIN AND MEMORABILIA SHOW will be held from Sunday, Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is \$1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield, will host a neighborhood block party Sunday, Sept. 9 from noon to 3 p.m. The public is invited to stop by for a free hamburger, enter a drawing for a free pie, play a little volleyball, and watch your children jump in the bounce house. For more information, call 737-5311.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.



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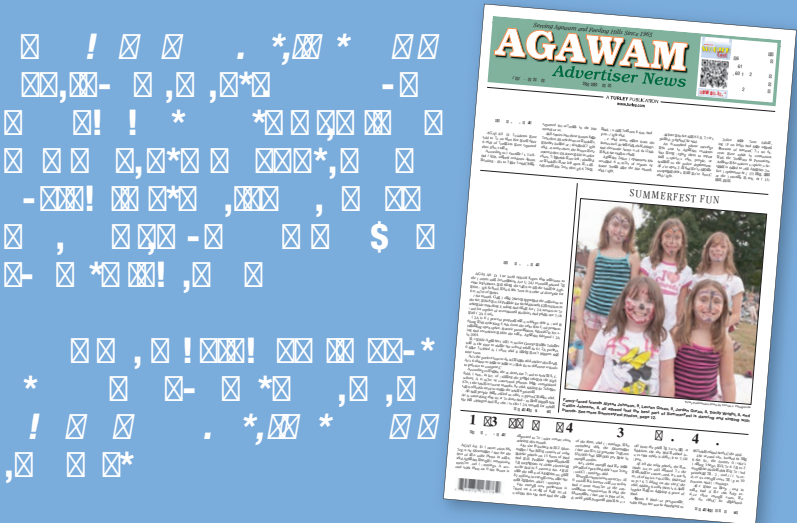
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